

Hongkong Weekly Press

AND

China Overland Trade Report.

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BIRTHS.

On 11th December, at Shanghai, the wife of HERBERT JAMES ANDREWS, of a daughter (still born).

On 13th December, at Shanghai, the wife of ARNOLD LAMBERT, of a daughter.

On 18th December, at Shanghai, to Captain and Mrs. HUGH MACKINNON, a son.

On 14th December, at Woosung, the wife of Dr. ROBERT H. COX, of a daughter.

On 17th December, at Amoy, the wife of TOM GREAVES GOWLAND of a daughter.

MARRIAGES.

On 12th December, at Shanghai, Nils ERIC AMELON MOLLER to ISABEL ELISABETH BLECHTENDEN.

On 14th December, at Shanghai, J. WM. MENNELL to LUCIE M. EDWARDS.

DEATHS.

On 10th December, at Ninipo, ALBERT KLIENE Tide Surveyor and Harbour Master, Imperial Maritime Customs. Age 67 years.

On 14th December, at Newchwang, WILLIAM JOHN CLARK, the beloved infant son of Mr. and Mrs. A. O. WILSON.

Hongkong Weekly Press.

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ARRIVAL OF MAILS.

The German Mail of November 21st arrived per the ss. *Gneisenau*, on Tuesday the 19th instant; and the French Mail of November 24th is due to arrive, per the ss. *Polynisien*, on Tuesday, the 26th instant.

FAR EASTERN NEWS.

The late Mr. Atwell Coxon left estate of the gross value of £38,963.

The Osaka Shosen Kaisha has now a fleet of ninety-six steamers whose tonnage ranges from 3,319 down to 83. Three only exceed 3,000 tons; twelve have a gross tonnage of between 2,000 and 3,000; and eighteen have a gross tonnage ranging from 1,000 to 2,000.

At Bangkok on the 29th November, a royal white elephant, while coming from his bath, managed to collide with a tram car, knocking it off the rails by butting into it with his hinder quarters. No very serious damage was done.

We regret to hear that Mr. W. J. Gresson, with whose exceedingly popular presence the luck of Hongkong is said to have departed, has had an accident while paper chasing, and broken his collar bone. The accident must have happened more than a week ago; and it will be sincerely hoped that Mr. Gresson is now all right again.

The *Nanfanpao* states that Baron Komura has promised that as soon as the establishment of Japanese banks has taken place, in accordance with the proposals now being made to China, at Fengtien, Kiuin, Newchwang, and elsewhere in Manchuria, they will gradually redeem the paper money circulated by the Japanese armies during the war.

The ss. *Pekin*, come from Ningpo, and the ss. *Poyang*, going to Hankow, collided on Dec. 20th near Black Point. Both vessels were damaged; the *Pekin* had to be beached. Capt. Spake commands the *Pekin*, which is a steamer of 2,232 tons. Capt. Benson commands the *Poyang*, 1,892 tons. Both are Messrs. Butterfield and Swire's boats.

The sincerity of the Chinese authorities in reference to the boycott of American trade is shown by the fact that while the Viceroy at Nanking was assuring the American Consul-General that the boycott was suppressed, an excited meeting attended by 3,000 Chinese was being held at Soochow at which the extension and intensification of the boycott were vehemently demanded.

Field manoeuvres, which passed off very satisfactorily, took place in the New Territory on December 16. A battery of Royal Artillery, a company of Royal Engineers, one and a half battalions of infantry, and a number of Volunteers participated in the operations which were of a very interesting nature and were watched by a considerable number of spectators. Field firing was the principal feature and it was to be regretted that various causes militated against a larger attendance of Volunteers.

By order of the mortgagee, Messrs. Hughes & Houghton Dec 18 put up for sale by public auction the valuable real estate property registered in the Land Office as the remaining portion of the reclamation to Marine Lot No. 35, which comprises No. 20 Connaught Road West. Bidding opened at \$50,000, and after a bid of \$5,000, rose by bids of \$1,000 and \$500 until the sum of \$76,000 was reached. At this figure the property was knocked down to Mr. Poon Hee Tung. Messrs. Deacon, Looker and Deacon were the vendor's solicitors.

That firmness and sternness in enforcing treaty rights are the best means to get China to stick to political bargains is a truism with the *Strait Times*. Unhappily, our contemporary says, this principle has of late been lost sight of by the British Government. British interests in China have suffered heavily by China having been allowed to back out of concessions stipulated for. The Peking authorities have long been none the worse for it. So intolerable, however, did this flabby policy eventually become that the British community at Shanghai had to memorialise Lord Lansdowne very forcibly on the subject. A promise to attend to their grievance was made in Parliament. Since then nothing has been heard of any remedial steps by the Foreign Office.

ANTI-FOREIGN RIOT AT SHANGHAI.

Following are some extracts from *Daily Press* telegrams (dated December 18th et seq.), with comments:—

All the Chinese shops are closed here, and street riots are going on in Hongkew and in the Maloo.

Many foreigners have been attacked and injured.

The German Consul has been stoned.

The warships are landing men.

The volunteers have been mobilised.

The mob consists chiefly of loafers and rowdies who have come in from the neighbouring villages.

Several carriages and a motor-car have been smashed.

The American Vice-Consul is injured.

The riot was suppressed by the Police, the sailors from the warships in port, and the Volunteers.

The damage done is really slight. The Luza Police Station was attacked, and partly burned. The Metropole Hotel annexe was wrecked; and the International Bicycle Store (a shop opposite the hotel, near the raccourse end of the Maloo, where guns, etc., were sold) was partly looted.

About twenty Chinese rowdies were killed.

No European was killed; but some were wounded.

The streets are now empty of Chinese; but armed patrols are on duty at all points to make sure that no further attempts are made.

The German Consul referred to will be Dr. Scholz, who is Acting-Consul since Dr. Knapp's departure.

The identity of the American Vice-Consul, reported injured, is not certain, as there have been many changes lately.

The Chinese merchants and gentry are partly responsible for the doings of their plebsian compatriots. In connection with the Mixed Court affair, they urged the Taotai to demand the dismissal of Mr. Twyman, the British Assessor. This was refused by Sir Pelham Warren, the British Consul, and the applicants at once began to "talk nasty." There was so much talk, in fact, that Shanghai was partly prepared for what has happened, and this accounts for the timely precautions taken.

There are three warships at Shanghai, one German, and two British, the *Bismarck* and the *Astrak*.

The Chinese are reported to have asked for representation on the Municipal Council, in view of the fact that they own much of the land in the Settlement. This request is a boated one. It has been taken as a compliment to British management (or "international" management, perhaps we ought to say) that this has not been previously asked for.

The Chinese, as we pointed out nearly a week ago, are very anxious to have undisputed control of Mixed Court management, cruelty, "squeeze," and all. Technically, they may be quite right in resenting interference "in purely Chinese cases," but the foreigners are not disposed to countenance, in the heart of a foreign settlement, medieval methods involving barbarism.

CHINESE IN CALIFORNIA.

(Daily Press 16th December).

Messrs. PATRICK J. HEALY and NG POON CHEW, of San Francisco, have collated a great mass of evidence bearing on Chinese-American relations. It reaches us in a "statement for non-exclusion," consisting of 255 closely packed pages. The authors assert that the anti-Asiatic exclusion crusade has been regularly bolstered with "grievances manufactured to order"; that the statements of the exclusionists are "unreasonable, ill-digested, and contradictory"; and that the charges of immorality and non-assimilation which are constantly urged against the Asiatic are generally made by "the very people who have no morals to boast of, and are doing all in their power to hinder the assimilation which they allege to be impossible." Most of this statement is directed to show that America does not suffer financially by the presence of the Chinese, the authors considering that "if it can be shown that the American people have not been injured in matters of dollars and cents by the presence of the stranger within our gates, nearly all the other charges will have little weight with practical people." We do not think they meant the implication to be quite so severe. The argument opens with a striking sentence.—"The casual reader who thinks that our relations with China and the Chinese began here in California at the time of the discovery of gold may be reminded that we sent ships to China for tea during the Revolutionary War, and that the desire of the English Colonists in North America to get tea at reasonable rates was one of the contributing causes which led to the Revolution and finally to our Independence." The history of American overtures to China in the early 'forties, when the habit of "coming in after the fight was over" had caused a mandarin to dub the Americans "second-class Englishmen" is amusingly set forth. In the early settlement of California, the Chinese were regarded as invaluable; "many writers refer to the services rendered by the Chinese in those early times, and there is a general agreement that his labour was a blessing." So far so good, but the authors of this statement appear at a loss to show the period and reason of the change of opinion. They suggest as "causes" two circumstances with which the Chinese had nothing whatever to do;—land speculation and the exhaustion of the gold field. In the case of the latter event, of course, the suggestion is that the services of the Chinese, being no longer indispensable, stirred the resentment of a people incapable of gratitude; but that is hardly a "cause." As a matter of probability, the origin of the trouble, which had already become "the Chinese question" in 1852, was the excessive immigration of worthless whites, attracted by the stories of gold finding. There was not a fortune waiting to be picked up from the ground for all of these; and they had, perforce, to think of earning a livelihood. As they were mostly of a class who prefer wages to be big and work little, it is not difficult to see how they would at once regard a people who were content to work hard for small wages. One of the "inalienable rights of man" was discovered by the GOVERNOR of California, the Hon. JOHN BIGLER, to be that of choking off competition by prohibitive taxation and legislative exclusion. After that the story is simple. Employers naturally preferred satisfactory labour at rates satisfactory to themselves; and it became a fixed and burning "question."

The noble white man of the lazy proletariat resorted to his traditional arguments, persecution and persistent ill-treatment. The poor Chinese, already used to regard this sort of thing as the state in which it had pleased Providence to place them, bowed before the wind. Lately, he has acquired the idea that he is not under compulsion to suffer all such trials as come his way. It is true he has shown a tendency to push his protests indiscriminately, and to invoke the aid of brethren who fight not wisely but too well; in excuse, it may be urged that he is a novice in the art of revolt. When he is better informed, and has learned to avoid the excesses of re-action, we shall be able to sympathise with his efforts to secure a share of those boasted "inalienable rights of man." The Americans who wished for yellow labour, asked for it on the understanding that the Chinese were "excluded from citizenship" (vide Mr. PHILIP A. ROACH's minority report on a labour Bill) while those who favour a "white America" complain that the yellow immigrants are unwilling to become citizens. It is entirely a Trades Union question, a fight between capital and labour, and the Chinese have been forced into the position of "black-legs." They have been the scapegoats for scandalous treatment, physical and otherwise, the American Government giving what it allowed its people to snatch back again.

HONGKONG COLLEGE OF MEDICINE FOR CHINESE.

(Daily Press 18th December.)

Doctors don't advertise, and the Hongkong College of Medicine for Chinese makes no flourish of trumpets; but the "Calendar" for 1906 just received reminds us once more that we have in our midst an organisation which is attacking the learned ignorance of China at a vital spot. There is a good deal of exaggeration, perhaps, in the common stories about Chinese medicines; and the prescriptions that include toads' eyebrows, rhinoceros horn, cockroach tea, and the like, are no doubt confined to the ubiquitous quack and the inventor of facetiae. The Chinese are given credit for having used anaesthetics long before the Western world had recognised their value; and in some of their simpler remedies, the Chinese doctors share the successes of the "herb doctors" of English country places. Except for their admitted ignorance of human physiology, the Chinese medicine men and their patients suffer most from the little knowledge which is dangerous, plus the much superstition that is more so. If we were to argue from the standpoint that the proof of the pudding is in the eating of it, we might be justified in saying that, so far as wholesale results are concerned, the general condition of the race that is, the foreign doctors have little to brag about. But the stamina of the average Chinese, like the much-prated-of decadence of the European, is in spite of, not because of, medical practice. Greater knowledge in Europe has not overcome the tendency to self-indulgence, against which medical science pleads and fights in vain; while in China it is the other way round: the acupuncture the messes and menses of the medicine men, cannot work permanent harm to a race which in the mass is given to simple living and inured to hardship. There have been Chinese themselves who had some glimmering of true causes and effects, or else whence came the native saying that "medicine cures the man who is fated not to die"? China is, however, passing out of that phase which seems to

have distinguished England a hundred and fifty years ago, when FIELDING described the surgeon as one wont to prognosticate that if "the malign concoction of his patient's humours should cause a suscitation of the fever, he might soon grow delirious, or delirious, as the vulgar express it." The English were by no means barbarians in those days, yet they relied trustfully then and for some time after upon those students of GALEN and HIPPOCRATES who discoursed so seemingly learnedly of the "divellication of that radical small minute invisible nerve which coheres to the pericranium". When we read this prospectus of the local faculty we realise China's great good fortune in being enabled, as the saying goes, to begin where we leave off. At the professional examinations last August, the Chinese students answered such questions as: "What are the conditions that necessitate the performance of (a) laryngotomy (b) tracheotomy? Briefly describe these operations." "Describe the etiology and the morphological characters of the micro-organism producing cholera." It is not improbable that there are in Hongkong well-educated foreigners who would find themselves at a loss to answer, without stopping to think, such a question as was put to the Chinese class in pathology. It was: "What is a squamous-celled epithelioma?" The cheapest of the text books recommended to these students is about the Reactions of Salts. In each subject, and these included biology, osteology, and nine or ten other abstrusities, every candidate is examined orally and practically. Although the few scholarships seem small, and the inducements by no means gaudy, apart from the unceasing glory that must surely attend each graduate, we notice that the present year has seen the addition of five licentiates to the roll of the college. In four or five years after the college was founded, the list began to grow, and we note that Hongkong is given as the place of residence of thirteen, while the rest are scattered abroad, in Japan, Perak, Penang, Selangor, Singapore, Manila and Shanghai. If these young men have really learned all that their examiners have given them credit for, and there is no reason to doubt it, their influence must have a tremendous leavening effect in time.

THE ANTI-FOREIGN RISING AT SHANGHAI.

(Daily Press, 19th December.)

We fear that the state of things at Shanghai has not been exaggerated by the telegram we sent out early yesterday afternoon. At first we were disposed to hope that in the excitement natural during the first demonstrations of the mob our correspondent had taken a too serious view of the affair; but the details given, and the careful wording of the statement touching the origin of the lawbreakers, put that out of the question. Later in the afternoon, other messages reached the Colony, placing beyond doubt the fact that a serious anti-foreign outbreak was proceeding at the northern port. One business firm here was notified that at noon business was at a standstill, the message adding the significant phrase: "Revolution broken out here." Then there was the news that H.M.S. *Bonaventure*, coming here, had been telegraphically recalled. The outbreak further seems to explain a mysterious message received earlier, to the effect that Shanghai was "uneasy." The stoning of the German Consul has as much special significance, we imagine, as the wounding of the

American VICE-CONSUL; that is to say, none beyond indicating that a lively anti-foreign feeling has at last come to a crisis. There will be the usual hasty conclusions, of course, that it is "the boycott," and so on; but although the boycott is a part of it, it is only a part, and was from the beginning only a part. The spirit of 1900 is not dead. It does not even appear to have been effectually "scotched." With good reason or without, the Chinese both high and low hate the foreigner. Their dislike is a part of them, an inherent characteristic, and it is perhaps the only satisfaction to be got out of the affair that their foolish foreign "friends," who have helped to fill them with ridiculous ideas, have to enjoy an equal share of this insane prejudice. The object lesson of Japan has been wasted on them. The Japanese do not love the foreigner—perhaps they have not too much reason so to do—but they have had the sense to tolerate him while they set their house in order. They "dissemble their love," and bow him out of the house politely: China, misguided China, cannot resist the temptation to kick him downstairs. But how childish she goes about it. It is not ignorance, nor helplessness, nor misfortune; but sheer stupid arrogance that makes her behave so. For their own sakes, and for fear of themselves, the Powers make pathetic efforts to preserve the integrity of this national Humpty-dumpty, who wilfully persists in falling off the wall; and who promises soon to reach that condition in which all the King's horses and all the King's men cannot put her together again. We are strongly tempted at such a time to wish it all over; to pray that the worst may come at once, and be got over; that we may be relieved of these constant excursions and alarms.

This Shanghai affair is not such a bolt from the sky to all that it may seem to some. The crisis has not been reached without symptoms. Every single loophole served to let out shafts of malice. The proposed road to the Hills was an opening for venting a feeling almost as old as those hills. Ever since it has been unsafe for a foreigner to walk in that district alone and unattended. The American boycott, which was born at Shanghai, was a god-sent chance to ventilate anti-foreign prejudices on the plausible ground of American ill-treatment. We recognised this at once, and pointed it out, at a time when others were content to void namby-pamby clap-trap about "dawning patriotism," and "national unity." There is nothing that brings people together surer than a mutual hatred; but that is not patriotism. It is no use to tell us now that this is only the misbehaviour of the proletariat. It must be remembered that the proletariat flocks into Shanghai ordinarily to enjoy its comforts and shelter; that it can behave gratefully and well as well as mischievously; and that it is notorious that previous actions of the proletariat around Shanghai have been prompted by certain officials. The cur has barked when the master raised his stick. Within the past few weeks, two ladies went riding in the environs of Shanghai where there had been no graves disturbed and no roads proposed to be made. They were foreigners, and apparently helpless. That was enough. A mob attacked them; and if the brave ladies had not had the presence of mind to charge right through the rascals, exciting their ponies to a vigorous display of hooves, there is no knowing what would have happened. For some reason or other all

these occurrences did not get into the press; but the state of the surrounding villages seems to be fairly indicated by a correspondent, who wrote to our Shanghai contemporary as follows:—

"Those who pay any attention to the reports of native cases in your columns are well aware that all round the borders of this settlement are villages which are the haunts of rascals and loafers of the worst type. These men blackmail the respectable Chinese who carry on business in the Settlement and terrorise the industrious artisan class.

"Every now and then we read of some atrocious crime. A man's eyes are gouged out or someone is found hacked to pieces in the neighbourhood of some one of those villages. It transpires invariably that the victim is someone who has dared to complain to the police of the oppression of these scoundrels. How many others are done to death and the crime never discovered no man knows. Now that the question of the jurisdiction of the Foreign and Chinese authorities in Shanghai is up for settlement, it seems to me, this would be an opportune time to demand—any request will be useless—that the police power may be extended so that they may arrest criminals without reference to the magistracy, anywhere within ten miles of Shanghai. The police know perfectly well that as soon as they ask for a warrant at the city yamen their quarry is warned by his good friends inside the gates and he has plenty of time to make his escape. I would suggest that the Council should call a public meeting and lay the whole matter before the ratepayers and that the urgency of the case should be so impressed on our Minister at Peking and on the Foreign Office at home that they will insist on the present anarchic state of affairs being brought to an immediate termination. Those who do not realise how serious the condition of affairs is may live to learn that this question affects not only the safety of our Chinese fellow-citizens in Shanghai; *our own lives and those of our wives and children are also at stake.*"

That was written on December 9th, at the time of the fracas in the Mixed Court. We read that at the next sitting of that Court, when the BRITISH Assessor's place was taken by a German, a large Chinese crowd had assembled in anticipation of another fight. No doubt they were disappointed, and it may be that this outbreak was engineered in order to gratify them. We have at present no right to offer any serious accusation against the Chinese officials there; but in view of their persistent policy and conduct, we cannot regard them as above suspicion. It seems clear that Shanghai has been invaded by a host of those turbulent spirits from the environs; and that they entered with a set purpose, and with an inspiration we can only guess at. There is, of course, no occasion to fear the ultimate outcome. Shanghai's excellent volunteer forces alone should be able to cope with the trouble until it is over; but in the meantime much wickedness may be wrought—has, we fear, already been done. The loss of property must be serious, even if that of life be happily small. The residential quarters are widely scattered; and we cannot but feel anxious until we know the worst. It is, if such a consideration be proper at such a time, also very bad for business. Already serious inconvenience has been caused here; and that at a time when there was no need to make bad worse. It is to be hoped that, in the first place, this affair may not prove to be more serious than our fears suggest; and in the second that such a subsequent lesson will be inculcated as will settle for a long time to come the status of the foreigner in China, and more particularly the status of the Shanghai settlement. In conclusion, it does seem that the words we quoted as well-chosen, so recently as the 14th inst. were justified. Our Shanghai contemporary

said that "the wave of exaltation that has come over the Chinese" (since Japan defeated Russia) "must be checked before it becomes dangerous."

TRADE OF KOWLOON.

(Daily Press, 20th December.)

We have received the second volume of the Chinese Imperial Maritime Customs annual trade reports, dealing with the southern ports. These carefully compiled and comprehensive books take so long to prepare that it is inevitable some of the information should appear stale. The bulk of it, however, is not accessible until it comes in the familiar yellow covers. In this volume is incorporated the interesting report on the Post Office working in China, with which we have dealt already. The next in point of local interest is the Kowloon Trade Report for 1904, which takes our thoughts back to the "harassing feeling of uncertainty entering into all commercial transactions, as a result of the war . . . and of a fluctuating exchange." These partly explained "the anything but brisk state of trade in the Kowloon district during 1904." There were other handicaps—"the competition of steam in freights" is mentioned—but not the least deterrent was "the ever-present element of piracy in the locality." It will sound strange to readers in England that piracy should prevail and make life and property insecure so near to a naval base like Hongkong; and although we can make more allowance for local difficulties than they can, we are not convinced that our naval representatives fully justify their presence. The British navy used to regard pirates all over the world as worthy of attention; but it looks as if the local ones are left too much to the Water Police, who are presumably sufficiently occupied by maintaining order in the Harbour. Surely the spirit that used to be manifested in chasing slave dhows in African waters might be called forth in defence of trade and freedom here. It is not as if the pirates pursue their nefarious business solely in Chinese waters.

The total trade for 1904, it appears, was, even in face of the troubles referred to, slightly better than in 1903; and the value of the cargo passing the Stations in the Canton River Estuary (foreign imports) was approximately seventeen and a half million taels, or about one million taels more than in the previous year. Native exports, however, decreased a million and a half. These results, however, have to be considered in connection with the enhanced values of many items; and the comparison of quantities shows that it was, like 1903, "at best a poor year." On the other hand, that is the point of view of the customs man. He bewails, what we cannot be expected to do, the success of steam transit against junk transit. "The competing day and night boats to and from Canton, with freights down to barely paying level, are doing all they can to attract cargo; and the time saved in transit of goods and the greater security against robbery offered by steamers are strong inducements to the native shipper to adopt the new means of carriage in lieu of the old." The spring and autumn crops harvested in and around the district were said to be "fair," although heavy rains ruined nearly twenty per cent early in the year. Yet money remained tight throughout, and the year's revenue was the poorest recorded. It was eleven thousand taels less than in 1903, the falling off being chiefly in opium and liquor duties—which to some will appear as

a satisfactory decrease. We reproduce elsewhere some interesting extracts from Mr. M'D. PARR's report.

DIPLOMATS AND JOURNALISTS.

(Daily Press, 21st December.)

Among the many changes which have taken place within the last few years in connection with public affairs there is, perhaps, none more striking than the alteration in the modes of diplomacy. In old times diplomatic personages were considered to be as inscrutable as the sphinx, and it was possibly just as well that they should be so regarded. The idea of "getting anything out" of a diplomatist worth a moment's consideration with regard to any question with which he might have to deal, scarcely occurred to the most sanguine of editors or correspondents. Certain broad lines of action might at times be indicated in very general terms and the influence of the Press be thus secured by Diplomats with a view to bringing a subject before the public and educating public opinion. This, however, was done only on rare occasions; with much circumspection and always with persons worthy of such confidence. At one time *The Times* enjoyed special favour in this respect and an article in that paper often formed, as it was intended to form, a very good indication of the way the wind was blowing upon some public question of the day; but confidences of this kind were for the most part restricted to matters upon which the public had an undoubted right to be informed—such in fact as any member of Parliament might with perfect propriety make the subject of a question in the House. Matters, however, have now gone very much further than this, and we find energetic interviewers quite ready to ask ambassadors and others for information regarding the very matters which these officials are engaged in settling. In old days men would as soon have thought of asking questions of this kind of diplomatists as of asking a judge which way he intended to decide some case still *sub judice*. Modesty of this kind does not, however, find much place in the pushing journalism of the present day. We thus find Ministers often placed in an awkward position by unexpected questions put by some interviewer who has gained admission to them perhaps for information on some apparently harmless matter. Recently we had a striking illustration of this in the questions put by the representatives of the *Paris Matin* to M. DELCASSE about the trouble with regard to Morocco. In order to get out what had taken place, the paper first assumed that M. DELCASSE had made certain statements; and when at the interview this was denied, endeavoured to press him with the question as to whether such a surmise was or was not purely imaginative. M. DELCASSE would have been a very much poorer diplomatist than Frenchmen generally are if he did not at this point bring the interview to a close; and he did so by telling the interviewer not to ask him for any further information. Such questioning seems somewhat strange in France where the public is not as a rule taken so much into the confidence of the Government as in England; and the incident certainly shows how general has been the change with regard to official and diplomatic secrets that has taken place.

Something of the kind bearing directly upon matters in this part of the world took place shortly afterwards, it being reported that the Chinese Minister in Paris had informed the French Secretary for Foreign Affairs that China intended to enter

upon a course of reform and to become recognised as a civilized power without the help of Japan, to the extent of throwing the whole of the country open to foreign trade and residence. Whether there was really any such utterance or not may be fairly considered an open question; but most certainly it ought not to have got into the public prints in the form of a report of a communication between two Ministers of State on an open diplomatic question. It is, of course, possible that some such statement was made, but if so, those acquainted with the Chinese will know very well what value they should set upon it. According to her own declarations, China has always been willing to progress by herself, but somehow she does not do so. No doubt she is now beginning to feel that something must again be said to appease the impatience of the foreigner; and that the best thing that her representatives can assert in answer to enquiries is that everything is right but we must "wait a little longer." This answer has done such good service in the past that it would be a pity if it should not be sufficient once more. It is, however, characteristic of the present day that a passing remark of this kind should be considered important enough to be telegraphed all over the world. It may be intended as a stop-gap to enquiries which are naturally being made at the present time as to the intentions of China in the future; but such general utterances are dangerous ground upon which to base any conclusions; and they are apt to be taken up in a very different sense to that which was intended, and so in the end may do considerably more harm than good. What probably was meant is that China intends to use the Japanese and to get all the information she can from them and then endeavour to settle things her own way, and make use of the influence of foreign nations to prevent any undue interference from that quarter. In this she can scarcely be held to blame; but the difficulty is that the Chinese have always shown themselves unable to inaugurate any important reforms by themselves. Nothing would suit Japan better than that China should be able to maintain her independence and autonomy without the help either of Japan herself or of any other nation; but it will remain to be seen whether the Chinese are sufficiently clever to do this. At the present time there is little doubt they are unable to hold their own without assistance; and in the interests of peace it is to be hoped that they will not be too proud to accept the aid of Japan until it is quite certain that they can swim without belts. If they honestly accept the position and endeavour to learn from Japan what is useful, and to avail themselves in a reasonable spirit of her assistance, they may succeed in effecting the promised reforms; but if their idea is merely to find out Japanese modes of action in the hope of bettering the instruction in their own antiquated way, the result will only be a repetition of the disappointment which has hitherto always followed upon Chinese promises of reform.

If there is no administrative rule in the local Post Office with regard to the "date stamping" of post-cards, there ought to be. We have received a postcard only half covered with writing; but of that writing the vital figures are obliterated by the legend: "Victoria, Hongkong 7 a.m. 21 Dec. 06." There was vacant space sufficient for nine such impressions; but the careless official picked out the one inch that ought to have been left alone. The usual custom, if it be not a rule, is to respect the business side of a postcard. It is a courtesy due to the public.

A NOTABLE JAPANESE PROTEST.

(Daily Press, 22nd December.)

We can but admire the ability of Baron K. SUYEMATSU to take "into calm and dispassionate consideration" matters which inspire us, who are less interested than he, with mixed feelings akin to humiliation and rage. Ridicule, logic, proof upon demonstration, and demonstration upon proof, have been advanced to cope with an unmitigated nuisance; and its continuance proves that it is not due to a general ignorance and thoughtlessness (else would it have gone from us) but that it is due to a universal recognition of the advantages of humbug. But with such an example as that set by Baron SUYEMATSU in his letter to the *Times* of Nov. 18, let us approach the missionary nuisance once more in something liker to the spirit which made him say, "I feel that the risk I incur of giving offence is comparatively a trifling thing, when compared with the good that may follow an impartial ventilation of this truly important matter." Unhappily, the mischief lies in the failure to reach a mutual standard of importance. There are those who believe the life to come so important that it justifies the overlooking of practices that tend to make this life unbearable. It is not to these we must appeal; but to the people who can realise that to-day is a bit of eternity, and that it is worth while preventing those who are over anxious about to-morrow from spoiling our to-day with their intolerable and intolerant impertinences. Baron SUYEMATSU, striving for well-authenticated accounts of the causes of certain features of the recent riots in Tokyo, quotes the Rev. JULIUS SOPER, a missionary who, after investigations, said, "The preaching of the young men from the Gospel Band (of which the Rev. J. NAKADA is one of the leaders) at this time of intense excitement was the occasion of this outburst of feeling against these places of Christian worship, and not the direct cause. It is unfortunate that preaching was carried on in the Asakusa Park, one of the strongest Buddhist sections of the city, at this time." Just how "unfortunate" it was may be gathered when Baron SUYEMATSU points out that "what is here described as 'Asakusa Park' consists in reality of the precincts of a large and famous Buddhist temple, somewhat similar to the Canterbury Cathedral and its courtyard, only somewhat larger." The Rev. Mr. SOPER—we are not responsible for the rev. gentleman's name—admitted that it was unfortunate his young men should have chosen such a venue just at that time; we presume that were Buddhist or Shinto propagandists to choose the courtyard of Canterbury Cathedral at any time for their demonstrations it would be resented as a little more than "unfortunate." Baron SUYEMATSU says the occasional—he will not say frequent—in discretion of the missionaries is greatly deplored by thoughtful persons in Japan. So it is in China; and it is now high time that steps were taken in the direction of something more practical than mere deplored. But to stick to this dignified Japanese remonstrance, which we hail as timely and amply justified—no one will deny that "persons who may be in the position of uninvited guests in another man's house are bound to exercise the utmost tact and seek by every means in their power to prevent any misunderstanding." Baron SUYEMATSU is afraid "there are many who do not, and never will," and he dreads possibilities. He mentions the case of an English clergyman who wrote to him "that there was to be found in England

a collection of sacred writings collectively called "The Bible," and that its English was classical and good, and that, if I should like it, he would make me a present of a copy." He comments, "If it is possible for an educated person to form an idea of this sort in the very heart of the civilized world, one may well be tempted to speculate on what goes on far away in the distant Orient between over-zealous missionaries and people of the common class." There was also the case of two young Christians who invaded the garden of his villa at Karuizawa, a favourite idling place for missionaries in the hot weather, and who, when spoken to by him about cutting down green branches from his favourite trees, were "not in the least sorry or ashamed" but most arrogantly told him the branches were required "for the House of God." He also deals with the famous letter by Bishop AWRAY, and neatly hints that the episcopal meekness and humility is not quite up to pattern, in "the general attitude he assumes towards Japan—essentially that of tutelage." He asks, "Can it, by any conceivable stretch of courtesy, be considered that the writer of such a letter for publication in a daily journal, circulated in the country wherein he resides—a letter in which phraseology of the irritating kind that I have quoted is employed—is a tactful and discreet leader of the missionary undertakings of the Church of England, though his intention may be good?" And so concludes, "It is most essential, in my opinion, that those who are in positions of authority in religious matters should take the utmost care in the selection and discipline of men to serve as missionaries, and to recall those who, by lack of judgment or displays of intolerance, show themselves as being unfit to occupy positions of so great responsibility." As, in the nature of such a business, no carelessness in selection could possibly eliminate the constant recurrence of over-zeal, something more seems needed. We would make it a condition in admitting missionaries that they should provide their blessings, but wait for those who want them to ask for them. The commercial traveller in trade seems to be a necessary nuisance; the commercial traveller in religion is a fire-brand, an impertinence, and a common danger.

HONGKONG JOTTINGS.

18th December.

A "parliamentary election" in Hongkong is a disappointing affair. No flaring posters adorn the walls; no fervid speeches are daily made from the hustings to catch the votes of electors; no colours are worn by the contending parties; and—well, any transient visitor from a vessel calling in at the port would scarcely suspect that we are now in the throes of an election—the election by the Justices of the Peace of an Unofficial Member of the Legislative Council. The franchise is a limited one—a very limited one, seeing that the voters number only about 100 out of a population of 350,000—but Crown Colonies have to be thankful for small mercies in the way of representative government. However, though the franchise is narrowly limited, the interest in the event is more widely felt, even though the casual visitor to Hongkong may deem it obscurely manifested, and one of the Great Unprivileged inquires what special qualifications the elect of the Justices of the Peace is required or expected to possess in distinction to the qualifications of the Member for the Chamber of Commerce. I regret my inability to answer the question by a direct reference to any official paper, and have pleasure in passing the question on to the candidates, who probably know and will be glad to answer it with all

the eloquence they can command. One has no difficulty in divining what are the qualifications for representing the Chamber of Commerce in the Council, but whether there was any clearly defined intention that the member representing the Justices of the Peace should especially represent any other than the commercial interests we might only learn from the unpublished dispatch by Sir George Bowen in which he recommended this electoral scheme to the Imperial authorities, about the year 1883. Presumably there was some such intention, though all Unofficial Members of the Council, having the welfare of the Colony at heart, must recognise the importance of giving their utmost support to any proposal which aims at conserving and promoting our commercial interests. Nor must we forget that the position of an Unofficial Member of the Legislative Council is a trust for the community as a whole and not a vantage ground for protecting particular trade or class interests. Three excellent candidates are contesting the election. My choice would be—but where are their "programmes"? Must we vote for men or for principles and policies? We know they are all honourable men, and probably the prevailing sentiment among the great body of non-electors will be *Palman qui meruit, ferat*. The voting is by ballot, and the votes have to be counted in the presence of all the Justices who attend the meeting convened by the senior magistrate.

Whenever an election of an Unofficial Member of the Legislative Council takes place, the automaton character of the Official Members always comes in for remark. They do not speak and vote as they please—or rather in the way the community would like to see them speak and vote. "The Governor pulls the strings and the figures move accordingly." That is the light in which Official Members of the Legislative Councils in all Crown Colonies are regarded. The community of Hongkong, by petition to the House of Commons on one occasion, prayed that the Official Members should be allowed to speak and vote as they pleased, and the reply came back from Lord Ripon, the Colonial Secretary of the day, in these terms:

"It is a demand which is familiar in the case of Crown Colonies, but only one answer can be given to it, viz., that the paid servants of the Government cannot be left free to oppose the Government. I should be surprised to learn that the Officials themselves wished to be given this freedom."

I can only recall one occasion on which an official has voted against the Government. That was possibly due to a mistake, though, as the member was new to the position, he may have voted conscientiously, and in ignorance of what was expected of him in the way of loyalty to the Government.

Another event to which many are now beginning to look forward is the Annual Race Meeting. The griffins from Shanghai are arriving later this year than usual owing to the difficulty of obtaining suitable animals in the north, doubtless a result of the war. Fifty have been ordered from Shanghai, and 13 only have arrived, but a further batch is coming on the *Kwongsang* which is expected to arrive to-day. The first batch to arrive appears on the whole to be a very satisfactory lot. Every morning before breakfast owners and riders are to be seen on the track, and we may now regard the training season as commenced.

One of these days somebody, I hope, will be inspired to write an addendum to the "Tales of the China Coast," giving us a book of delectable yarns which might be entitled "Tales of China Skippers." One was told me the other day which might find a place in such a collection. A popular skipper who has recently returned from Home relates how fascinated he was by the stories now-a-days heard in certain circles about the luxury of workhouse life in England, and thinking, maybe, that some day he might need a quiet, luxuriously comfortable and inexpensive retreat in the "old country," resolved to have a little anticipatory experience of life in a "People's Palace." Not being old and indigent, an application to the Guardians for admission to "the House" was out of the question, but the able-bodied, if destitute, have no difficulty

in getting into the casual ward. Our skipper and a friend, having resolved to make the experiment, attired themselves in garbs suitable to the destitute character of the out-of-work British workman, presented themselves at the portals of a casual ward and were duly admitted.

One of the first comforts of the institution to which they were introduced was the bath! No doubt, the warder remarked that they were clean-looking specimens of the British tramp, but that possibly only confirmed the warder in his pre-conceived opinion that they were professional tramps, who would, in the ordinary course of things, get a bath every day, though each day in a different workhouse. After a plain, wholesome meal, with no whiskey and cigars to follow, came the order to "turn in" for the night. While the sleeping accommodation was not so comfortable as a captain's cabin on a China coaster, the able seaman of these parts would describe it as "can do," and tired tramps might be expected to sleep as soundly as the average Chinese coolie will sleep on a stone wall. The most amusing part of the tale comes after the breakfast, full and satisfying, but not appetising to men of epicurean tastes. Every casual has to cover the expenses of his night's lodging and breakfast by performing a "task" before he is allowed to leave, and the task is usually to pick a certain quantity of oakum or break a certain quantity of stone. "Picking oakum" is the task in most casual wards, and our skipper reckoned he could do that like a shot. But in the particular ward he had selected to enter stone-breaking was the allotted task, and the job well-nigh broke the skipper's heart. His friend knew something about the stratification of stone and managed to complete his task and get quit of the establishment by eleven o'clock; but the skipper had had no experience of stone-breaking, and it took him some time to acquire the knack. It was four o'clock before the task was completed, and as the regulations allow only one meal a day to be given to a casual, the famished skipper on the completion of his arduous task took his discharge with a sense of great relief and has come back to China, his hands still sore from the use of the hammer, and his mind thoroughly made up that the luxury of workhouse life in England will not appeal to him should the stress of competition ever put him on his beam ends.

The rain which fell on Friday night was very welcome, for the notices published by the Water Authority recently have warned us that the reservoirs are getting low. We have had much less rain this year than usual. For the last three years the rainfall has averaged 80 inches, but to end of November this year only about 63 inches had fallen. Dr. Clark, the Medical Officer of Health, in his last report pointed out that the rainfall records of the last twenty years indicate a progressive change in our climatic conditions. From 1835 to the end of 1894 the average yearly rainfall was 95.19 inches; in the succeeding ten years the average was only 74.84 inches. These figures have an important bearing on the water storage accommodation question.

This day week is Christmas Day when Christendom and his wife does the bidding of the poet who says:—

At Christmas play, and make good cheer.

For Christmas comes but once a year.

Never have I seen the shops of Hongkong so prettily decorated with all that goes to "make good cheer," especially for the younger members of the community, who must now be dreaming nightly of the coming of Santa Claus. And we are actually to have a Christmas Pantomime. The Zorrilla Comedy Company, who are now returning here from Shanghai, announce that they will re-open to-morrow in St. George's Hall with "Sinbad the Sailor." I would like to suggest to the management the advisability of arranging for a Matinee performance, or numbers of children would miss what to them would be a treat to be long-remembered.

BANYAN.

H.E. the Governor has been pleased to appoint Mr. C. Rees to be secretary to the Squatter's Board.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ELECTION.

MR. POLLOCK HEADS THE POLL.

At the City Hall on December 21st the three candidates for the prospective vacant seat in the Legislative Council, caused by the retirement at the end of the year of Sir Paul Chater, addressed the unofficial Justices of the Peace. They were Messrs. H. E. Pollock, K.C., H. W. Slade and E. A. Hewett.

Mr. F. A. HAZELAND the senior magistrate, presided over a large attendance.

The CHAIRMAN at the outset explained the purpose for which the meeting was called, and indicated the procedure to be followed. He had received three nominations—Mr. E. A. Hewett, proposed by Mr. A. G. Wood, seconded by Mr. E. W. Mitchell; Mr. H. E. Pollock, proposed by the Hon. Mr. Gershom Stewart, seconded by Mr. Playfair; Mr. H. W. Slade, proposed by Sir Paul Chater, seconded by Mr. J. R. M. Smith; and asked if there were any other nominations.

There being none forthcoming,

The CHAIRMAN said he would be glad if the three candidates would agree as to the order in which they should speak.

Mr. HEWETT remarked that they had a rule in the Chamber of Commerce that the candidates should address the meeting in the order that their nominations had been received.

Mr. POLLOCK did not think that rule was binding on the meeting, and he proposed that he should address the meeting last.

The Hon. MR. GERSHOM STEWART seconded.

The vote was being taken when it was intimated that the other two candidates were agreed that Mr. Pollock should speak last.

Mr. Slade then agreed to speak first.

Sir PAUL CHATER, on rising from his seat was greeted with loud applause. In proposing Mr. Slade, he said:—Gentlemen,—We are here to-day to elect a representative from the Justices of the Peace to the Legislative Council of this Colony, and in proposing to you, as I have now the pleasure to do, Mr. H. A. W. Slade, I feel that no words from me are necessary to recommend him to your suffrages, since he is well known to you, having been a resident of the Colony for the past seventeen years as a member, and for some years past as the head, of one of the oldest established firms in the Colony. Mr. Slade is largely interested in the commercial welfare of the Colony, and has an extended experience therein holding as he does a seat on the directorate of some of our leading public companies: he is chairman of the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank and the Union Insurance Society of Canton, and a member of committee of the Chamber of Commerce. He is, moreover, a resident in the true sense of the word not liable at a moment's notice to be transferred to other scenes; the life of Hongkong is his life; its welfare his welfare; and I feel sure that if you elect him you will have elected one who can safely be trusted to work for the interest of the Colony with untiring zeal and ability. I beg therefore to propose to you Mr. H. A. W. Slade (applause).

Mr. SMITH said he was sure all had heard with great regret that Sir Paul Chater had decided to retire from the Council. Had he allowed himself to be persuaded to stand again, the speaker was certain that he would have been returned with acclamation, for he had proved himself right worthy of the honour and distinction, and had been a most able, energetic and popular representative, not only of the Justices of the Peace, but of the whole community. Instead of seeking re-election, however, he had proposed Mr. H. W. Slade to fill the vacancy, and had shown in a very convincing way that he could not have put forward a more suitable successor. Not only was Mr. Slade a resident of many years' standing, but his whole future business interests were centred here, so that he was intimately concerned in all that affected the general welfare, prosperity and development of the Colony. He knew of none amongst them of whom it could be more truly said, that the interests—present and future—of the Colony were his interests; neither did he know anyone in a better position to follow a free and independent course in the Council Chamber, and, if elected, he would apply himself to public

affairs in an earnest, vigorous and conscientious spirit. He was the sort of man they wanted, and the speaker hoped they would send him there.

Mr. SLADE said that when Sir Paul Chater approached him sometime back and told him he did not intend to seek re-election, and asked the speaker if he would be willing to be nominated, he felt very diffident about it, but Sir Paul represented the case to him, and on speaking to one or two other gentlemen, the impression was that it was a very desirable thing that the new representative should, if possible, be a person in a similar position to himself, namely, a business man. For that reason he was before the electors. It seemed to him that every one, when he considered a particular question, did so from his own standpoint, a lawyer looking at it from a legal point of view, and the property owner from the point of view as to whether the value of property would be affected. As head of a firm here, his interests were entirely coincident with the interest of all other merchants, and the knowledge he had gained in business would enable him to consider how proposals were likely to affect the commercial prosperity of the Colony. Again, as a director of certain banks here, other interests were brought closely under his notice, such as the important question of property. All matters which in any way affected the values and interests of property, from the experience he had gained in his connection with public companies, he could give an opinion on. As regards the Colony's shipping interests, there again he had experience which would enable him to look at it from a proper point of view, both in his own business and as Lloyd's agent here. He had no connection outside the Colony which would in any way bias his opinion. On the question of finance he would be able to give a better opinion than the others, as a merchant's opinion was likely to be of most value, and he thought he would be better able to consider how a proposal should be brought forward which was likely to affect the prosperity of the Colony. He could assure the electors that if they elected him, his best efforts would be used to furthering their interests in the Council.

Mr. WOOD had much pleasure in proposing Mr. E. A. Hewett. He had been sufficiently long and well known to the electors for them to know his qualifications.

Mr. MITCHELL seconded the proposal. He did not think a better man could be found to represent them.

Mr. HEWETT said he would like in the first place to cordially endorse, as he was sure they already had done, the great regret the Justices of the Peace of this Colony experienced by the retirement of Sir Paul Chater after so many years representing that important body (applause). It was usual on such an occasion as that for the candidate who came before them to make some remarks as to his qualifications, and to state his views. He had the audacity to offer himself as a candidate because he believed that his past experience had fitted him for the important position which he sought. It was 23 years since he had first arrived in the colony, and during that period he had been a resident here for ten years. With the exception of two brief visits home, he had spent the rest of that time in China or Japan. But having regarded Hongkong as his destination he had always kept well in touch with all that was passing here. He did not wish to wave a red rag before them—he did not wish to suggest they were bull—but he felt he must refer to the five years' municipal experience which he had had in Shanghai, and he should perhaps remind them of what that experience amounted to. It meant the control of a large police force of 800, a large volunteer force, a volunteer fire brigade, a municipal gaol, a complete works department, sanitary and medical departments, a form of regulations which were practically the equivalent of our local ordinances, and all questions, great and small, including also extensive finance, which must relate to an important community representing 8,000 Europeans and 400,000 Chinese. For two years he had been on the Hongkong Sanitary Board and for many years he had been closely connected with educational establishments, both here and elsewhere. He had served on the governing board of Queen's College and on

the board of the Diocesan School. Moreover he had been closely connected with the various Chambers of Commerce in the leading ports of this part of the world, and he considered that he was fairly entitled to assert that he had obtained a very varied and extensive experience which must be of very great use in whatever position he occupied. In his own business, and in his association with the Chamber of Commerce it had been his business to make himself acquainted with all questions affecting the interests of Hongkong; such as the Kowloon railway, the fiscal question, the water supply, the sanitary question and the numberless questions which must arise in such an important community as this. With regard to the fiscal question he had been fortunate when on his recent visit home to express what he believed to be the view of the colony on that subject. It had been urged that he did not properly represent Hongkong, but he failed to understand how such a suggestion could apply to him. It was 61 years since the P. and O. Company first dispatched a steamer to Hongkong, and so long as that company existed, so long must their interests be closely bound up with Hongkong, whose growing importance was an every-day occurrence. For very nearly 30 years he had been in the employ of the P. and O., and he intended with luck to serve them for another 30 years. If it were vouchsafed to him, he hoped in that considerable period to devote his attention to promoting the interests of Hongkong, whether he happened to be resident here or not (cheers). He had heard a rumour the other day to the effect that he was going home, but he wished them to understand that was that true he would not appear before them that day. He had only just returned from a visit home, and he hoped to spend many days in Hongkong before going home. They were all busy men, and their first thoughts were taken up by their business. He possibly had as much leisure as most men, and he could assure them that public work being his hobby, he gladly seized any opportunity of working for what he believed to be the public good. That being so, if they did him the honour to elect him as their representative to the Legislative Council, he could assure them that his time and strenuous endeavours would be devoted to the furtherance of the interests which he was sure they all had at heart (applause). He came before them as an entirely independent candidate. He had actually the temerity to come forward on his own initiative. As he had said, it had always been his desire to work for the public good. The rule he had set before himself in public positions which he had filled, was to do, without fear or favour, the greatest good for the greatest number (applause). He did not seek that position for the honour which it conferred, but he came forward honestly believing that he was qualified to fill it. If they elected him he would do what he believed to be his duty in looking after their interests to the full (cheers).

The Hon. MR. GERSHOM STEWART said his duty that day sat lightly on him, as the candidate whom he recommended them to elect to the position, Mr. H. E. Pollock, was already well and favourably known to them (applause). The interest which had been evinced in the election and the attendance there that day were sufficient answer to those who held the opinion that they were so engrossed in the pursuit of money or the pursuit of pleasure that they had no time to take any interest in their public affairs when they had the opportunity of so doing (applause). Three gentlemen had offered themselves for election that day, all of high character and recognised ability, but as it was impossible for three men to occupy one seat the invidious process of making a selection was forced on those present. He thought they owed a debt of gratitude to the three gentlemen for their public spirit in coming forward (applause). He felt sure he expressed their views when he said that the defeated would share with the victor, whoever he might be, the respect and esteem of their fellow citizens (cheers). It was not for him, situated as he was, to enlarge on the sterling qualities of the two gentlemen towards whom he was in temporary opposition; but to enlarge upon the good points of the candidate whose claims he advocated. Mr. Pollock's record was well-known

to all in the Colony, and his work would speak for itself. He was a recognised authority at the Sanitary Board, and he had already had several years experience on the Legislative Council. He was for a number of years acting Attorney General, and as the temporary representative of the Chamber of Commerce he was a most useful critic of any laws laid upon the table. It might be said that his being a lawyer was somewhat of an objection against his representing a body such as theirs, but his answer was that the exercise of his profession brought him into contact with their commercial life at all points, and should any necessity arise for obtaining special advice on any particular subject, he was sure the expert opinion of the Colony would be placed at his disposal. The fact that he was connected with no particular branch of commerce seemed rather in his favour as he would be able to hold the scales with justice when any particular trade was affected by legislation. They all felt great regret that Sir Paul Chater was not going to represent them again. The Council would be much poorer for the loss of his mature wisdom and ripe experience, and he would ask those present to think—in a place like this where it was difficult to obtain continuity—whether it would not be wise to fill the place of their veteran by a tried and trained successor. They had in Mr. Pollock a trusty knight who had carried himself well in many a combat. Where he had had to draw the sword in contention he had wielded it with vigour. That sword was there keen of edge, of tried temper, reliable as ever. It was ready to their hand if they chose to wield it. Let them think well before they threw it down to take up an untried weapon. There was an old proverb that a bird in the hand was worth two in the bush, and he would remind them that when they had a good and tried man willing to serve them they might go further and fare worse. He thought it was right, and the other candidates showed their sense of fairness in the matter in allowing Mr. Pollock to speak last, because he would have been at a disadvantage in so far that when he entered the electoral field the harvest had already been gathered by an early and energetic canvasser on the part of those who opposed him. He appeared in the field somewhat in the position of a gleaner. When he started, he got encouragement, and when the votes came to be counted they hoped his sheaf would be as large, or even larger, than those who got there earlier and gathered in the corn (applause). All who believed that the best way of obtaining satisfactory legislation was to pass it through the crucible of free discussion, he would ask to remember that when any question arose in the future requiring argument, the debating power of the unofficial side of the council would be much strengthened if they sent Mr. Pollock forward as their representative, (applause) as he had proved himself a skilful debater and a fearless critic. He had much pleasure in proposing that Mr. Pollock was a fit and proper person to represent the Justices of the Peace in the Legislative Council of this colony (cheers).

Mr. PLAYFAIR seconded. He did so with the greatest pleasure because it was his firm conviction that Mr. Pollock was a long way the best of the whole three (laughter.) He (the speaker) had represented them himself, and he knew the experience that was necessary. He felt certain they would be doing the right thing in electing Mr. Pollock (cheers).

Mr. POLLOCK said he was sure a great many would sympathise with him in the fact that he was the last candidate in the field. When he mentioned his candidature to certain gentlemen they told him they were very sorry, but they had already promised their votes, being under the impression that there were only two candidates. He hoped those who promised their votes somewhat prematurely, under an erroneous impression, would consider the altered circumstances and see fit to reconsider their decision. He was sure all deplored the retirement of Sir Paul Chater, and thought he was correct in saying that when Sir Paul informed some of them of his retirement, he also told them that he proposed to nominate Mr. Slade as his successor, but the speaker was quite sure that he should have said Sir Paul with him in the principle of a fair and open

field for everybody (hear, hear). Such a principle had been the corner stone of our Empire, and one of the bulwarks of our commercial success. He did not intend to address electors on the subject of personal qualifications, but as the others had done so, he should set his views before them. It seemed to him that the two most important qualifications of a representative of the Colony on the Council were; firstly, that he should be accustomed to public speaking, and secondly, that he should have some knowledge of the proper and correct method of drafting laws, and especially that he should be a competent man to judge of the effect proposed legislation was likely to have upon the commercial and other interests of the colony. It was true that in commercial matters he could not claim the expert knowledge possessed by Mr. Slade; neither in shipping matters could he claim a knowledge such as Mr. Hewitt's. But if ever he found himself in any difficulty whatsoever regarding these subjects he would at once ask the advice of the committee of the Chamber of Commerce, and he was quite sure from his previous experience of them, when he had the honour of being their representative on the Council, such would advice at all time, be most freely afforded. He would next pass a few remarks on certain subjects which should be pressed home upon the Government and the Council. In the first place it seemed to him that there was a necessity for increased vigour in the prosecution of public works (hear, hear). The completion of the new Post Office was urgently required; so also was the increase to the water storage (applause). Another point which required attention was the question of surfacing of roads; he was quite sure no one was satisfied with their condition when the weather was anyway moist. He would also direct attention, if elected, to the necessity for increase of the efficiency of fire extinguishing appliances, and would urge that an arrangement should be come to by which this Colony, when the number of cases of plague drops should be declared to be no longer infected (hear, hear). Another thing urgently required was the provision of a new and much larger typhoon shelter. All knew what occurred directly the red signal was hoisted; Chinese sampans, junks and cargo boats rushed into the far too limited accommodation at Causeway Bay for fear of being crowded out, and the whole of the shipping was a standstill. Such a matter required to be urgently remedied. They would have perhaps noticed that quite recently the Government had abolished the trust for the resumption of insanitary properties. A scheme was inaugurated by Mr. May some time ago for laying aside so much of the revenue for this purpose. He considered it most proper that that trust should be continued, and was wholly opposed to the action of the Government in abolishing it. There should not be the smallest difficulty in procuring the necessary money for such a needed improvement. Another very important point which to a certain extent was connected with sanitation, was the question of the Government instructing Chinese tenants in this Colony in the principles of sanitation and cleanliness in their homes. A great deal was heard of the prosecutions of tenants for breaches of the law, but surely it was better to bring home to them the importance of cleanliness rather than bringing such prosecutions, the importance of which they could not appreciate. There was no use in saying that a back courtyard was to be opened up to the sky if the tenant did not understand the necessity of keeping it open. With reference to the Kowloon-Canton railway, if elected he would, to the best of his power, urge the speedy construction of that much needed work; because he felt convinced that it was necessary that we should be in touch with the markets of China if this Colony is to safeguard and secure the proud and eminent position which it now holds. If the electors should honour him with their confidence, he purposed at all times to promote the public interests of the Colony (applause).

The ballot was then proceeded with, the result being as under:—

Mr. H. E. POLLOCK	41 votes
Mr. H. W. SLADE	23 votes
Mr. E. A. HEWETT	20 votes

Mr. Pollock briefly returned thanks, and the voters departed.

NEW KING EDWARD HOTEL.

THE FORMAL OPENING.

An era in the history of the King Edward Hotel was marked on Dec 1st by the formal opening of the fine new block of buildings which will now constitute the hotel proper, the older portion being now described as the annexe. No one will gainsay that the building just opened occupies a striking place in the architecture of the principal thoroughfare of the city. It is one of which the proprietors, Messrs. Dorabjee and Co., may well be proud, and with the attractive exterior supported by all that spells comfort and convenience for visitors they may anticipate that the hotel has a successful future. Built on the Praya reclamation on very expensive foundations—on piles 40 feet long and cement concrete—the new hotel is one of the highest erections in the vicinity. It has six storeys and the height from pavement to roof is 105 feet, the flag staff rising other 24 feet. Its style of architecture is known as the French Renaissance, and the work so admirably designed by Messrs. Leigh and Orange, the architects, has been accomplished with most satisfactory results. There is a granite basement lined with water-tight material to keep out the tides. Above is the ground floor, 24 feet high, consisting of semi-circular arches borne on white granite piers and blocked columns, the spandrels being filled in with moulded plaster ornaments of restrained design. A Roman Ionic colonnade runs through the first and second floors and shorter columns carry the intermediate floor. The three upper floors are designed with rusticated piers and with splayed shafts engaged. The top floor forms an arcade or loggia with bold overhanging corners in steel and concrete which serve to keep the rain off the entire front, while the usual flagstaffs adorn each of the corners. The entrance from Des Vaux Road is by a circular porch carried on two granite monolithic columns, with Ionic caps. Some comment has been made locally about this corner, and critics will doubtless be pleased to learn that there were constructional reasons for not putting a tower there as originally intended; moreover it was considered better to give greater space in the street, and as the angle lent itself to the convenient placing of fire-places, these were inserted.

An inspection of the interior shows commodious rooms, furnished in good taste, and arranged with a view to securing the greatest measure of comfort and convenience. The woodwork consists chiefly of panelled teak, and the *tout ensemble* is pleasing. The bath rooms are equipped with the latest design in baths and are tiled, and modern appliances are used in other conveniences.

On the ground floor are the office and bar room, the first floor being occupied as a dining room which is capable of accommodating about 200 guests. In this room there are fine portraits of the King and Queen. The second floor has a billiard room, reading room, smoking room, writing room, private dining room, ladies' tea and cloak rooms, all tastefully furnished; while on the three upper stories are the bedrooms, well lighted and airy. The whole is fitted with electric light, and telephones are on each floor.

The kitchens are interesting by reason of the up-to-date methods and apparatus seen there. There are separate kitchens for cooking vegetables and preparing pastry, and a new patent cooker has been introduced. The servants' quarters show every regard to sanitary requirements. Another feature worth mentioning is that all the ventilating boards are backed with copper wire gauze to keep mosquitoes and other insects out of the floor.

The annexe is now used for bedroom accommodation, with the exception of the front portion let as a bank, and the old dining-room converted into a bar.

On Dec. 1st a large number of friends and patrons visited the new premises and partook of the hospitality of the proprietors, who were the recipients of many kindly expressed sentiments for the prosperity of the new house.

KOWLOON BOWLING GREEN.

OPENING BY THE GOVERNOR.

An interesting event took place at Kowloon on the 16th December when the new bowling greens and tennis courts just completed for the Kowloon Bowling Green Club were formally opened by His Excellency the Governor. As a well known, a re-arrangement of the greens was found necessary when a ground was allotted by the Government to the Kowloon Cricket Club. They were closed to allow the alterations to be carried out, and now the work has been finished there are two well laid bowling greens, with a tennis court at each end, while a handsome pavilion overlooks all, in which comforts and convenience can be secured by the members.

For Saturday's ceremony the ground was gaily decorated with bunting, and a large number of ladies and gentlemen attended to participate in the interesting proceedings. Among these was a contingent from the sister bowling club, the Civil Service. The band of the 2nd West Kents was present and enhanced the pleasure of the afternoon by discoursing attractive selections. The Governor who was accompanied by the Attorney General, Sir Harry Berkeley, was met at the entrance in Austin Road by the president Captain McIlroy, the secretary, Mr. A. R. Kinross, and Messrs. W. Ramsay and Mac Donald, and escorted to the tent, where the members of the committee were introduced to him. Then an adjournment was made to the bowling greens.

Captain McILROY said—Your Excellency, as President of the Kowloon Bowling Green Club it is my pleasant duty to welcome you among us to-day. The event is an auspicious one in the brief annals of our Club, this being the third occasion on which the lawns of the Club have been opened, each opening being marked by notable advancement and extension. The club first saw the light six years ago, and it is testimony to the good feeling which has prevailed in the ranks of its members that nearly all the original members who remain in the Colony are still with us. The Club has all along been entirely self-supporting and, with the generous recognition extended to us by your Excellency, by which we one and all feel highly honoured, and for which we are truly grateful to your Excellency, the ground on which we are now assembled has within the past few years been transformed from a marshy waste to a scene of beauty. This improvement was first instituted by the Kowloon Bowling Green Club, and the Government, in the vigorous measures it has taken of late towards completing the King's Park, is doing all it can to complete a desirable memorial of the Coronation of our beloved sovereign (hear hear), which will be appreciated by the residents of Kowloon for many generations to come. The Club provides in Kowloon a quiet spot for lovers of a quiet and not over strenuous recreation and that our lady friends have not been neglected is evidenced by a small addition to our club house, reserved specially for their use, and the addition of the tennis courts, which our new ground affords us space for. Without trespassing more on valuable time, I would now ask your Excellency to be so good as to throw the jack and declare the greens open for play (applause).

His Excellency was then handed a silver jack which he threw, and followed it by a bowl amid cries of "Good Shot." Another ceremony took place at the end tennis court, when His Excellency played a set with Mrs. McIlroy, the wife of the president. On returning to the tent,

Captain McIlroy asked the Governor to accept a silver jack, suitably inscribed, and mounted on a blackwood stand, as a souvenir of the occasion.

His EXCELLENCY said—I accept with deepest thanks this pretty souvenir of this pleasant occasion. It gave me particular satisfaction to accept the invitation of the Kowloon Bowling Green Club to be present this afternoon and open their new greens, because it seemed to me that the Club had behaved in a very sportsmanlike way in the manner they met the Government's wishes with regard to the Kowloon Cricket Club. We were approached

some time ago by the Cricket Club for a site in the King's Park, but there was a difficulty in doing so, as the bowling greens prevented a cricket ground being made here of sufficient size to be useful. I then suggested to the Bowling Green Club that they should come to an arrangement with the Cricket Club by which a good cricket ground could be made and the bowling greens preserved at the same time. The Club met our wishes in the matter, with the result that the bowling greens have been shifted and the cricket ground has been formed. I thought their conduct was sportsmanlike (hear, hear). I hope they have not lost thereby. I don't think they have. They have now 1,700 more square feet than before and we helped them to fill it a little. They have got two excellent bowling greens and two new tennis courts. I have nothing more to say but congratulate you on your greens which are prettily laid out and situated in a central position, in what, if not already, will be the most important part of the colony, Kowloon (applause). I don't think the railway will disturb you much. There will be a certain amount of whistling all round. I have to go to Taipo in order to see the surveying with regard to that same railway, and I thank you again for this pretty souvenir of my visit to the greens this afternoon. And now I formally declare the greens to be opened (applause).

In the tent Mr. W. Ramsay proposed the health of the Governor, to which His Excellency replied.

Sir HENRY BERKELEY proposed "prosperity to the Kowloon Bowling Green Club." They had heard, he said, from His Excellency how the Club had co-operated with the Government and by that co-operation secured an advantage of additional ground. The club was sure to prosper, and one advantage was that many of its members joined the Volunteer Reserve Association (laughter and applause). He had already recruited six that afternoon, and that was the best possible indication of its hope for the future (applause).

The Governor then presented the prizes won during the season as follows. President's prize—1, Mr. J. Gault; 2, Mr. J. M. Henderson. Vice-president's prize—1, Mr. G. H. Edwards; 2, Mr. G. R. Haxton. Championship prize—1, Mr. J. P. Gault; 2, Mr. G. R. Haxton.

His Excellency afterwards made, on behalf of the Club, a presentation to Mr. Kinross, the secretary, in recognition of his valuable services in getting the new greens made.

The gift took the form of a silver kettle.

Mr. KINROSS acknowledged the gift and said that what he had done for the club he was prepared to do again. He had done his best. There had been a lot of work in forming the greens, but if the members were satisfied he was more than repaid for what he had done (applause).

Tea was dispensed by the ladies and a few rinks played on the new green, but the pleasure unfortunately was marred by the rain. However, the ceremony of the afternoon was all that could have been desired, and the members were pleased at its success. The ladies were thanked for their services, on the call of Mr. Jack.

CORRESPONDENCE.

THE CANTON LEPEHS.

—TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."
Canton, 13th December

SIR.—I am very grateful for some good donations towards the Leper Relief Fund. In order to relieve the worst forms of suffering during the next ten weeks we will need some more help. We hope that some more friends will remember these suffering lepers.

Please acknowledge the following contributions and oblige.—Yours truly,

ANDREW BEATTIE.

A Chinese Friend...	\$25
J. J. Tavarra, Esq., ...	5
A Parsee Friend ...	20
A Parsee Friend ...	5

The plague totals remained unaltered on Dec 16, at 301 cases and 253 deaths. On the 18th, however, two more fatalities were recorded, making 303 cases and 255 deaths.

SUPREME COURT.

Monday, 18th December.

IN CRIMINAL JURISDICTION.

BEFORE Sir FRANCIS PIGGOTT (CHIEF JUSTICE).

MANSLAUGHTER.

Wong Sing, chair coolie, was charged with the manslaughter of Wong Hok in Kowloon City on 6th November. The Attorney-General (Sir H. Berkeley) conducted the case for the prosecution, prisoner being undefended.

The following jury were empanelled: Messrs. Carl Schluter (foreman), A. J. Williams, Chan Pat, Alfred Sheffield, J. D. Auld, A. J. Ward, and H. G. Simms.

A plea of NOT GUILTY was tendered.

The Attorney-General, in opening the case, said that both prisoner and deceased were in the employ of a military officer. On 6th November deceased was carrying a bundle of clothes to the laundry, and crossed over to Kowloon in the same service launch as prisoner. On arrival at Kowloon deceased was going along the street when, according to the evidence for the Crown, he knocked with his clothes bundle against prisoner, who was accompanied by several chair coolies and washermen. Some words followed and prisoner, calling deceased "a saucy fellow," caught up a pole and struck him on the head with it, inflicting the injuries from which he died. There was nothing to justify the prisoner striking the deceased in the way he did.

A constable spoke to seeing prisoner strike the deceased with the pole. The other men were fighting among themselves. He rushed out and with Inspector Cameron arrested the men. After being in the Police Station for some time deceased became sick and vomited.

Cross-examined—He did not see that prisoner attempted to separate the men who were fighting or that deceased assaulted him.

Prisoner made a statement in which he said that on the day in question he was walking along the street. Behind him was a number of washermen carrying their bundles recklessly. A free fight ensued and probably deceased was struck by one of the others. One witness for the prosecution said prisoner struck one blow, and another said he struck more than that, so he asked his Lordship not to accept their statements. Besides when deceased pointed, in reply to the question by Inspector Cameron as to which man struck him, he did so at random.

The Attorney General having addressed the jury, his Lordship summed up; and the jury returned a verdict of guilty.

Prisoner said it was a case of oppression and false accusation, but if the jury found him guilty he asked his Lordship to deal with him leniently.

Sentence of three years' hard labour.

AN ABSENT JURYMAN.

Mr. James Walker, who failed to respond to his name when the jury were empanelled in the above case, now appeared, and in answer to his Lordship's question as to what excuse he had to offer, said he had no intention of evading the summons of the court. He was busy in his office and it entirely escaped his memory till the bailiff appeared at the door. His Lordship said he would not fine him this time but he would have to be more careful in future.

ALLEGED BRIGANDAGE.

EXTRAORDINARY STORY OF DETENTION FOR RANSOM.

Yeung Ho, alias Yeung Pat, and Kwok Yau were indicted for feloniously detaining six men, Chan Kam Lung On, An Pang, Leung Chi, An Yau and Yeung Tin Chi, farmers, of the Heung Shan district, at No 10 Battery Street, Yaumati, with intent to procure a ransom for their liberation, between the 15th and 26th November, 1905, contrary to Ordinance No 2 of 1865, section 41. The Attorney-General prosecuted, prisoners being undefended.

The following jury were empanelled: Messrs. B. G. Mehta (foreman), Hermann Ehmer,

Jacob Jebson, J. O. Hughes, Kelly Sayce, E. A. Schroeder and Jas. Little.

The Attorney-General said prisoners were charged with the offence, unusual of late, of forcibly detaining some six Chinamen with a view to obtaining ransom for their liberation. The indictment was laid under a statute peculiar to the colony, and the facts would be detailed by the six men, who alleged they were forcibly detained for the purpose already stated. They belonged to the Heung Shan district, somewhere in the direction of Macao, and owing to the fact that the capture was made outside of their jurisdiction he had not been able to institute a prosecution for taking the men as well as detaining them. The case was this. Some six men in charge of farms of various sorts and sizes in China, all close together, were captured by a band of armed robbers and taken away from their farms. They were taken, according to the evidence of the six men, by boat down to Wong Moon, and there they were placed in huts on the hillside, where they remained some time until they were taken elsewhere. Then they were put in a fishing boat and taken to Macao, whence they were conveyed by steamer to Hongkong by the second prisoner. Undoubtedly the circumstances were peculiar. It would appear ridiculous that one little man could force six men to go against their will to Hongkong on a steamer, but yet such was the story. The captured men were taken from the interior of China, where they had never seen a European before, and were terrified by their captors who threatened to kill them if they attempted to escape. However there was the fact that the second prisoner, who was a somewhat little man and who was probably a man of great force of mind if not of body, took those six men to Hongkong and handed them over to a brothel-keeper at Yaumati. The men would tell the jury that they were ordered by the little man, and being so terrified they did as they were told. They were some days at Yaumati when the detective department under Inspector Hanson instituted inquiries and had the men released.

His Lordship—What evidence have you of detention at Yaumati?

The Attorney-General said the men would state that they were kept there. Persons could be imprisoned in a room if sufficient moral force were employed without resorting to physical force at all. The object was to detain the men until they were ransomed by their employers or friends. The offence was very rare here, but at one time it was extremely common and special legislation had to be passed in 1865 to deal with it. It seemed strange that six men should be brought to Hongkong by one man, but they knew that truth was stranger than fiction. When he read the depositions he thought it was a strange story, but they were bound to prosecute.

The first complainant related how he was surprised one night by ten armed men entering the farm premises and asking who was the head man. He replied that he was and was dragged away by the men to the river and placed in a boat. They made him paddle the boat. They stopped at different places on the river and other five men were captured. The boat proceeded down the river and at a certain place the men were lodged in huts on the hillside. Subsequently they were put on board a junk, forced into the hold and taken to Macao, from which they sailed in a steamer to Hongkong, being afterwards conveyed to Yaumati.

To his Lordship—The six men were not afraid of the little man himself but were afraid of the others and of the consequences of running away. Their captors threatened them they would be sent to prison if they escaped. When put in the junks the men called them fools if they tried to escape.

Why did they call you fools?—Because they did not know us.

Were you in terror of your life?—What do you think? (laughter).

The second complainant bore out the statement of previous witness. He said they remained in the house at Yaumati because the second man said if he ran away he would be brought back and slaughtered. The second man advised him to say if anyone entered the house that he had come down there to better himself. If he stayed there quietly his master

would pay ransom for him. He believed the threats of the second man because a farmer next him had been captured by robbers, but escaping went back to his farm, where he was recaptured and killed.

The third complainant said they were fairly well treated at Yaumati. He recognised the first defendant as the owner of the brothel. The second defendant was the man who frightened him with threats.

After other witnesses had been heard, the Chief Justice said there was no case against the first man, who, by consent of the jury, was discharged.

The Attorney-General addressed the jury at some length, after which,

His Lordship summed up. He said the story was one such as a novelist might have told, and no doubt the jury were at first not inclined to be credulous, but he thought as the case had gone on, and as they saw those simple folk and heard their story he thought they would agree with him that the case was really a serious one and had to be seriously considered. The jury would have to bear in mind that they had nothing to do with the capture of the men outside the colony but simply with their detention in Yaumati. The question was whether they believed that those six men had been tyrannised over by that little man in the box.

The jury found prisoner guilty, and sentence of seven years' hard labour was passed by his Lordship.

IN SUMMARY JURISDICTION.

BEFORE MR. A. G. WISE (PUISNE JUDGE).

EN ON FIRM P U KAM.

This action brought to recover \$211.88 balance of money due for work done and material supplied, consisting of the erection of certain matchsheds, etc., was adjourned from Friday in order that his Lordship might have an opportunity of reading a judgment given in a previous case. Mr. F. P. Hett appeared for the plaintiff firm and Mr. C. T. Dixon for the defendant. At the former hearing Mr. Hett argued that the sum of \$22.80 which had been paid into court without specification of the item for which the money was paid was an admission of the cause of action and they were entitled to judgment for the full amount.

His Lordship gave judgment for plaintiff for \$232.88 being the full amount less \$10 which should have been credited by the plaintiff firm as having been received by one of their employees.

Tuesday, 19th December.

IN CRIMINAL JURISDICTION.

BEFORE SIR FRANCIS PIGGOTT (CHIEF JUSTICE).

ALLEGED ARSON.

Kwok Fat and Li Kat Hin were arraigned on a charge of arson, with wilfully setting fire to premises at 462 Des Voeux Road with intent to defraud two insurance companies, the Meiji and the National Prussian. The Attorney-General conducted the prosecution; and prisoners, who pleaded not guilty, were defended by Mr. W. N. Slade (instructed by Mr. O. D. Thomson).

The following jury were empanelled—Messrs. William J. Crawford (foreman), Harry Hodgkiss, H. W. B. Kennett, F. Campbell, G. A. MacGregor, J. I. Andrew, and F. O. Reynolds.

The Attorney-General, in opening the case, said the prisoners were charged with setting fire to a godown in Des Voeux Road West, in which the second prisoner was a partner and the first an employee. When the fire broke out on the night of 22nd November the examination made then would satisfy the jury that the fire had been deliberately set, and they would be satisfied that it had been set, with the purpose of defrauding the insurance companies. The evidence would satisfy them that the godown had been fired in five different places, and there would be little difficulty in coming to the conclusion that it was a case of arson. In addition to what he had mentioned, the jury would be told that there were distinct and strong smells

of kerosene in the place, and that drops of burning liquid were seen dropping from the first floor to the ground floor. After explaining that in such cases the prosecution had to rely largely on circumstantial evidence, the Attorney-General said he would prove that the premises were insured for \$27,000 and that, at the time of the fire, the goods in the godown only represented a value of about \$1,000. Thus there was the probability of defendants, in the event of their setting fire to the premises, gaining \$26,000. Again he would prove that on or about 24th September the second prisoner invested \$15,000 in the godown, which he drew out in three instalments within a fortnight's time. At 2 o'clock on the morning following the fire the second defendant was in the shop fully dressed. He never called for the police and these circumstances would require explanation.

Evidence for the prosecution was adduced at considerable length.

Mr. Slade, in opening the defence, said there was no doubt that this house was set on fire, but the question the jury had to decide was whether it was set on fire by either of the two men. If the jury eliminated the evidence as to the nature of the fire—the burning oil and the fire in separate places—to what did the evidence against the men amount? It amounted to nothing more than that a constable saw the first prisoner as he was coming out of the godown and apprehended him after a miraculously quick run. With regard to the second prisoner, the master of the shop, it was said by the detective that he was found in the morning fully dressed. But counsel would call evidence to show that that was untrue and that prisoner was in bed when the police called. He got up at their request and went round with them to the Police Station. They would see the importance of that when they remembered that the case against the second prisoner depended absolutely upon the evidence of the policeman. The only other evidence against the second prisoner was that of a policeman, who had been in the Colony for 21 months, and who said he identified him as the man he had seen under the light of a street lamp walking in front of the premises where the fire took place. It was absurd to think that one could remember the details of a Chinaman's features, and he reminded the jury of the ghastly mistakes that had been made in the administration of justice, by placing reliance on the evidence of identification.

Li Chow Sou, a sleeping partner in the Wong Fook Tai, spoke to being in the shop on the night in question and looked through the books with Li Kat Hin. Shortly after 10 o'clock he went to bed and told the latter to go to bed. He did so and was roused out of bed by the police knocking them up.

Cross-examined—He told Li Kat Hin to go to bed.

Why did you tell him to go to bed that night?—I told him on other nights to go to bed.

Why?—Well he is my cousin, and I took an interest in him (laughter).

And did you leave anyone in charge (when you returned to Canton) to send your cousin to bed?—No, he was left to his own discretion.

And he could stay up late if he liked?—Yes (laughter).

The cook at the house also gave evidence as to his master's movements that night.

Mr. Slade and the Attorney-General having addressed the jury at length, his Lordship summed up.

The jury after a short absence returned a verdict of guilty against both prisoners.

His Lordship passed sentence of seven years' hard labour upon the first prisoner and five years' hard labour upon the second.

Wednesday, 20th December.

IN CRIMINAL SESSIONS.

BEFORE SIR F. T. PIGGOTT (CHIEF JUSTICE).

AN INDIAN'S MURDER.

Three Indians named Mowaz Khan, Rakhan Deen and Kanj Mallah, were indicted for the murder of Musaf Khan on November 22nd. The Attorney-General prosecuted and Hon. Dr. H. Kai appeared for the first and second defendants, and Mr. H. G. Calthrop for third defendant.

The following were sworn as jury: Messrs Harry Hodge (foreman), B. D. Kapleyn, Jacob Jebson, J. D. Auld, H. C. H. Broedisson, W. L. Carter, and A. J. Williams.

The Attorney-General outlined the case for the prosecution. He said that on the morning of the 24th November a large trunk was found on the foreshore of Laichikok, on the other side of the harbour, which contained the dead body of an Indian, who was afterwards identified as Mustaf Khan. The body was naked, except for a turban round the waist, to which was attached a heavy iron weight. Medical examination of the body disclosed the fact that death was caused by a bullet wound in the head, and that death had taken place about two days previous to the body being found. The dead man had been a watchman employed on the Canton-Macao steamer wharf, and the three prisoners lived in the same shed as deceased on the wharf, where they were afterwards arrested by Chief Detective Inspector Hanson. The appearance of the body; the circumstances under which it was found (enclosed in a trunk, which had evidently been washed up by the sea); the wound in the man's head—all pointed conclusively to foul play—that the man had been murdered. The question was whether the three prisoners had committed the murder or not. The weapon with which the dead had been committed had not been found but from evidence which would be called the Attorney-General thought the jury would come to the conclusion that the bullet had been fired from a revolver of a similar pattern to one purchased by a friend of one of the prisoners, for him, in Macao. The last time the deceased was seen alive was on the 22nd of November; it was reported shortly after 7 o'clock that night that the deceased was absent from duty. An Indian constable who was in the habit of borrowing cooking utensils from the deceased to prepare his food knocked at the door of the shed and after waiting for a few moments the door was slightly opened and the second prisoner handed out the utensils. That identification was important. Another witness would depose that the third prisoner purchased a trunk that same evening which was delivered at the wharf, and in which the body was found. The trunk was taken down to the Yin King wharf, and if the jury were satisfied that the trunk was carried there they had got a long way in their investigations. The next evidence would take them to about 11 o'clock the same evening. At that time, witnesses would tell them, the three prisoners hired a sampau to take a trunk over to Sam Shui Po. This evidence might be accepted without much difficulty because at the actual time the circumstances were such as to give them full opportunity of seeing the persons with whom they were dealing. From the evidence of the boatmen it appeared that the three persons and their box were landed near Laichikok, where they and the box were left. As to supplying a motive for the crime, though it was not necessary for the prosecution to establish a motive, it was always satisfactory if they could furnish a full and reasonable motive for the crime. In this case the motive alleged was that which had actuated many to commit the crime of murder. The theory of the prosecution was that as the deceased man had been in the habit of boasting of his wealth, the three men made up their minds to possess it. To that end a revolver was purchased in Macao and one man, acting in concert with the other two, went to the hut where the deceased had laid down to rest and shot him. At first blush it seemed impossible that a man should be shot like this without the report being heard, but an experiment had been conducted in the hut with the result of showing that the noise at the wharf made it impossible for the report to be heard at any great distance. Having done this, they had to dispose of the body in some way and so they placed it in the box and removed it in the manner suggested.

The Hon. Dr. Ho Kai took exception to two points in the Attorney-General's statement. The first was with regard to the testimony to be given respecting the purchase of the revolver by one of the defendants, as that evidence had not been produced at the Police Court, nor had the depositions been taken. The second was relative to the expert who had conducted the experiment by firing a revolver in the hut at the wharf. That also was new to them.

The Chief Justice thought the objection should be tendered when the witnesses were called.

Hon. Dr. Ho Kai agreed.

Witnesses were then called, who spoke to the body being found in the box. There was a bullet wound in the forehead, and a heavy iron weight was fastened to the body. Dr. Moore affirmed that the wound in the forehead was the cause of death. It was not likely that the wound was self-inflicted. The Indian from whom the revolver was purchased at Macao said the purchase was made by a man called Mowan who was accompanied by the deceased. Under cross-examination he said that none of the three prisoners was Mowan. The foki of the shop where the box was purchased identified the third prisoner as the man who had bought it, while a boatwoman recognised the first and second defendants as the men with whom she had bargained to take over to Sam Shui Po in her uncle's sampau. They had a big box with them.

The hearing was adjourned.

Thursday, 21st December.

IN CRIMINAL JURISDICTION.

BEFORE SIR FRANCIS FEGGOTT (CHIEF JUSTICE).

AN INDIAN'S MURDER.

The trial of the three Indians for the murder of a fellow countryman was resumed. Prior to the opening of the court the judge and jury proceeded to the hut in question on the *Yung King* wharf, inside which a shot was fired by way of experiment.

The case for the prosecution was not concluded till midday. The defence set up was that the witnesses for the prosecution were mistaken in identifying the three prisoners as having crossed to Sam Shui Po on the night in question.

Mr. Calthrop partly opened his case and two witnesses were called for the defence.

The Hon. Dr. Ho Kai, addressing the jury, said that at first sight the case might appear to have been one of foul murder, but the prosecution had not presented the case so as to exclude the possibility of accidental death. Speaking of their visit to the hut that morning he argued that there were no evidences of preparation for the crime there, that the place was small, and that people on the other side could look through the crevices. All that showed there was no deliberate attempt to commit murder, and furthermore there was no evidence of a scuffle. No one would be so stupid as to plan a murder in such a confined place, while the presence of so many boats and people in the neighbourhood was against any theory of deliberate planning. He contended that robbery was not the motive for the crime, because the deceased gave his money to the compradors of the steamer to keep for him, and a ring which he had was not taken away; neither was hate the motive for the crime, as all the men were on good terms.

The jury were absent for one hour and three-quarters and returned a unanimous verdict of NOT GUILTY and the three prisoners were discharged.

IN SUMMARY JURISDICTION.

BEFORE MR. A. G. WISE (PUISNE JUDGE).

CLAIM FOR RENT.

In the action in which the Robinson Piano Company sued H. Price, lately carrying on business as a wine and spirit merchant at 12 Queen's Road Central, under the style of H. Price and Co., to recover the sum of \$375 being one month's rent of the eastern part of the ground floor of Connaught House, judgment was given for defendant with costs.

The following notification has been received from the Government of Madras:—The Governor in Council is pleased to direct that the regulations under the Venetian Sanitary Convention be imposed at all uninfected ports of the Madras Presidency against arrivals from Hongkong, intimation having been received that there have been four cases of plague at that place since 27th October, 1905.

MARINE MAGISTRATE'S COURT.

Monday, 18th December.

BEFORE HON. CAPTAIN L. A. W. BARNES-LAWRENCE (MARINE MAGISTRATE).

STARVED SEAMEN AND A MISSING STEWARD
An inquiry was opened into the circumstances of a complaint made by the crew of the British ship *Simla* as to the bad quality and deficiency in quantity of provisions supplied.

William Franklin, A.B., sworn, stated that after seven weeks out from Cardiff, the port watch went aft to the saloon, taking the weekly allowance of sugar with them to see the steward. They told him that they wished to see the captain. He asked—"What for?" They replied—"To see that we got our proper weight." The steward took the sugar from them and took it to the captain; he returned shortly afterwards, put more sugar in the tin and handed it to witness as representing the watch, saying—"You have got your weight now." Witness said he should like to see the weights. He was shown them, and found a 4 lbs. weight on the scales; he asked for 2 lb. 2 oz. more, that being the proper allowance for seven men at 2 oz. per day. The steward then gave the proper allowance and said he would give them 6 lbs. more the following day to make up for what he had been doing them out of. They got the extra 6 lbs. next day, and from that time had no further cause of complaint with respect to the sugar.

By his Worship—They left Cardiff on the 4th July, and the complaint with regard to the sugar was made on the 19th August. During those dates they had been on a short allowance of sugar. They made no complaint before the 15th August because they did not know how things would go, and being on a long cruise, did not wish to complain unless things got worse. As it was, their sugar only lasted four, sometimes three days, whereas it should have lasted seven.

Continuing witness said that from the time they were put on preserved meat, some two to three weeks out, they received short measurement, one lb. instead of a pound and a half; in view of the half pound short they were given margarine. He said this substitute been butter, no complaint would have been made.

His Worship (to the Captain)—Is it the custom of the service to issue butter or marmalade in lieu of the half pound of meat?

The Captain—Yes.

Witness, continuing, said that when some seven or eight weeks out, the rice ran short and they received preserved vegetables instead. They complained because the cook would not make soup out of these and the captain allowed them potatoes. On the 28th ultimo the Captain informed them that they were to see the provisions weighed out.

Other witnesses corroborated the story told by the first.

G. T. Casson, master of the *Simla*, said he knew nothing of the complaints regarding provisions until the 27th November when he made an entry in the ship's log to that effect. He then took action by arranging that the men should see their provisions weighed, which he thought was sufficient evidence to let them see that he was doing a fair thing. About seven weeks after leaving Cardiff the steward went to him and told him that the men were grumbling about the sugar. He asked how much they were getting and the steward said twelve ounces. Witness said it ought to have been 14 ounces, and ordered the steward to give them the shortage from the time of leaving port.

In answer to his Worship witness said he did not at any time see the provisions weighed out. The steward had joined the ship at Cardiff for this cruise.

Continuing, witness said he informed the steward on the 14th instant that he would be required to give evidence at the Harbour Office respecting these complaints. He gave him leave on that day to go ashore for two hours, but had not seen him since. He offered a reward, but so far had been unsuccessful in getting hold of the steward. The provisions were checked at Cardiff by the chief officer as they were taken on board, and he signed the

duplicate and sent it to the dealers. Witness had no reason to suppose that anything was short.

His Worship adjourned the inquiry until Thursday in order that the steward's evidence may, if possible, be forthcoming, and to give time for stock to be taken of the balance of provisions.

DISTINGUISHED AMERICAN AT HONGKONG.

INTERVIEW WITH MR. BRYAN.

For a whole week, Mr. William Jennings Bryan, Mrs. Bryan, and their son and daughter, have stayed at the Hongkong Hotel, breaking their tour to enable Mr. Bryan to deal with arrears of work. In addition to his contributions to *The Commoner*, a weekly journal of which he is the proprietor, Mr. Bryan is under contract to supply a syndicate with his impressions. Being a very busy journalist, and his wares having a high market value, he did not give much away to the interviewer sent from the *Daily Press* office; but chatted amiably enough in glib trotter fashion.

He is a man of remarkable personal appearance and character, and is considered to be one of the most eloquent speakers in a land where oratory is still valued. He has been twice nominated for President of the United States, 1896 and 1900; his advocacy of "free silver coinage" was his most noted asset; but in addition he is an anti-Imperialist and a hater of Trusts.

He had just come down from the Peak when interviewed, and was enthusiastic. He had never seen finer scenery, he said, and thought the grouping of mountains, islands, and sea would remain lastingly impressed upon his mental retina. He was surprised at first at the un-English appearance of the houses, but was able to realise that local requirements had influenced the English notions of architecture.

He had visited Canton, and compared with Peking and Shanghai native city he thought it was the most "Chinese" place he had seen. For "Chinese" the interviewer might understand "odorous," if he liked.

Boycott? No, he had not come into touch with any sort of anti-American feeling. So far as the Chinese were concerned, there was a reason; since he and his party approached them as purchasers, not as sellers. "They seem ready enough to take American money." And with some justice, Mr. Bryan added that he was not always recognised as an American. He looks more like a benevolent Irish priest. But he is thoroughly American in some ways. He rejoiced to think that an American had something to do with the introduction of riches, and was positively pleased by an intelligent Chinaman who said he liked America better than England, because America did not grab territory nor induce opium.

The Linchow affair was mentioned, and Mr. Bryan's sympathies were with the missionaries. He admitted but excused their intolerance; said it was natural in the case of people who have ideals; and more to be applauded than the tolerance of the money-grubbing merchant, which was really nothing better than a callous indifference to spiritual matters. It was worse when they professed Christianity, and did not support the missionaries. The curious thing was that both achieved similar results by different ways. Both were helping the Chinese to a true knowledge of the foreigner, his methods and his ideals; and in turn learning to know the Chinese. A better mutual acquaintance was a desirable thing. He attributed entirely to their philosophy the present position of the Chinese; and equally assigned the Western progress to Christian ideals.

Mr. Bryan and family are going next to Manila, then to India, and so home again; the grand tour being as much for the improving of the mind as for pleasure.

KOWLOON TRADE REPORT, 1904.

The Chinese Imperial Maritime Customs Report for 1904 includes the following:—**Foreign Trade.—Imports.**—The total Foreign Import trade was valued at a little over 17½ millions, against 16½ millions in 1903 and 22 millions in 1902. Rice was imported in larger quantity than during the previous 12 months, in spite of very fair crops in the district, and it is probable that this enhancement of our figures for the cereal's import is due mainly to fewer Rice-carrying steamers from the North and South having gone direct to Canton, and the consequent transshipment into junk at this port. The import of Rice Bran rose from 1,804,502 to 2,311,658 piculs. Ground-nuts, owing to a deterioration of the plant in the greater part of the province, increased from 70,733 to 98,984 piculs. The figures for the Yarn trade show an increase of over 70 per cent. on the previous year's total, and this commodity was imported to the extent of 690 piculs. This, however, is an insignificant quantity compared with those of previous years. As pointed out in my predecessor's Report for 1903, there is no advantage in shipping this cargo by junk now that the control of the Native Customs at Canton has come under Foreign supervision and the rebate formerly granted there has been done away with. Metals showed but little improvement: Brass and Yellow Metal Sheets, Old Brass, Iron Bars, Iron Hoops, Nail-rod Iron, Iron Plates, Iron Sheets, Iron Wire, Steel Bars, and Tinned Plates all exhibit a decline. In Copper Sheets and Old Copper, however, a rise is visible. Under Sundries, in addition to Rice Bran, etc., already mentioned, Foreign Leather shows an advance of all but 4 per cent. on the previous year's figures. The Coal import increased but slightly; it is now, however, very nearly double that of five years ago. Sumatra Oil passed the Stations to the extent of close upon a million gallons—an enhancement on the previous year's figures and those of 1902; but the import is small when compared with the over 4 million gallons in 1901. American and Russian Oils fell to 2½ million gallons, against over 4 millions in 1903. The trade in these Oils is becoming more and more confined to junks under Foreign flags and lighters steam-towed. An import of 480,000 gallons of Colza Oil from Japan appears in the Returns for the first time. This commodity, I am told, is extensively used for adulterating the oil manufactured from the ground-nut. Decreases have to be recorded in Betel-nuts, Bichoda Mar, Raw Cotton, Japan Matches, Rattans, Paddy, White Sugar, Foreign Salt, Salt Fish, and Rosewood. Native Imports aggregated a total value of Hk. Tls. 5,290,776, which figures exhibit a slight improvement on those for the preceding year, and this trade was fairly steady throughout the 12 months. Sesamum Seed showed an increase of over 100 per cent. on the import of 1903. Dried and Salt Fish rose by nearly 10,000 piculs, though the import's value exhibited a fall of approaching Hk. Tls. 200,000. Native Leather, too, rose from 9,179 piculs, of a value of Hk. Tls. 238,000, to 12,728 piculs, valued at over half a million taels. The import of Ground-nut Oil via our Stations in the Canton River estuary increased to more than five times that of 1903. An enhanced import of Fungus and White Wax has to be noticed whilst Fish in Brine, Dried Lily Flowers, Medicines, Tin-foil, and Vermicelli show decline.

Exports.—The value of Native Exports—Hk. Tls. 15,890,890—shows a shrinkage on the previous year's figures of over 1½ million taels, which is chiefly noticeable in the exports via our Canton River Stations. But few commodities exhibit any material improvement. Raw White Silk disappears entirely from the Returns, and but one picul of Wild Silk appears; all other classes of Silk goods exhibit decreases, and Cassia Lign-a is all but absent from the tables. Matting, too, formerly exported to the extent of nearly half a million rolls per annum, has during the last two years fallen very rapidly, and the year's export is but one-fifth of that of 1903 and 1901. The reason given for the decline is that, as a result of litigation between the employers and the employed in the trade, the Matting was exported when not properly dry, thus arriving

at its destination, in an unsaleable condition, with the result that the principal (American) market has been, at any rate partially, closed to the product. Another reason given for the falling off in our Returns under this heading is that the matting from the Taiping district (a large productive centre), owing to disputes as to freight by junk, now goes to Canton for export. A decline has to be recorded in Coarse and Fine Chinaware, Trimmed and Untrimmed Palm-leaf Fans, Furniture, 1st Quality Paper, Pottery, and Timber. Fire-crackers also decreased as a result, it is said, of an increased tax in Annam, where a large quantity of this commodity finds a market. Bamboo Canes, Dried and Salt Fish, Straw Mats, Ground-Nut Oil, 2nd Quality Paper, Samshu, and Silk and Cotton Shoes exhibit rises. The export of Brown and White Sugar and Sugar Cane showed an increase of 25 per cent. on the preceding year's figures, due to a rush of the commodity to Japan during the middle of the year, on the announcement of an increased Duty to be levied after the 1st October.

Re-exports.—Nil.

4 deg. Coast Trade.—Original Shipment Coastwise.—Nil.

Coastwise Arrivals (i.e., produce exchanged between Chinese ports via the Kowloon Stations.)—The value of this trade for the year shows an increase on the figures for 1903, which is, however, largely accounted for by the increased traffic in (due to a dry season and consequent large production) and enhanced value of Salt, the trade in which via the Stations totalled 2,557,318 piculs, of a value of over 3 million taels.

Inland Transit.—Nil.

Shipping.—Luncheon reported at the Stations to the number of 4,088, against 4,549 during the previous year, a decrease of 541. Junks—the falling off in the number of which is exhibited in the Returns from our eastern Station, Samun, and is largely due to piracy in that section of the district—to totalled 36,585, against 40,088 during the preceding 12 months.

Passenger Traffic.—The figures under this heading show that passengers passed our Stations to the extent of some 70,000 less than during the previous year.

Treasure.—Nil.

Opium.—The year's import into China via the Stations—62½ piculs of the Foreign raw drug—shows a decrease of some 13½ per cent. on the figures for 1903. The shrinkage is most apparent in the arrivals of Patna, which fell from 34½ to 253½ piculs. No Boiled Opium passed through during the 12 months. At the commencement of the year the stock of the various kinds of Opium in Hongkong aggregated a total of 5,194 chests. The arrivals during the year were 45,23½ chests, making a total of 50,724½ chests to be accounted for. Shipments to Shanghai, east coast ports, Macao, Canton, west coast ports (and local consumption) totalled 44,179 chests, and on 29th December 6,545½ chests remained in stock. Native Opium passed through the Colony to the extent of 12½ chests. Prices for the Bengal drug in Hongkong opened at \$1,250 for both Patna and Benere, and the year closed with the former variety at \$1,145 and the latter at \$1,100. Prices fluctuated very largely throughout the 12 months, and Native dealers did not do well, and the steady rise in silver towards the end of the year did not tend to improve the business—already of a very speculative nature. Malwa opened at \$950 for new and \$1,070 for old. The end of December saw the price for the former at \$1,170 and the latter at \$1,300. The remarks as to the business in the Bengal drug apply also to that in Opium from Bombay, though it is said that the trade in the latter variety was not quite so unprofitable as that in the produce from Calcutta.

Miscellaneous.—Piracy in the locality showed no signs of abating. 10 cases were reported at our western and 16 cases at our eastern stations, though the figures, of course, represent but a tithe of the doings of the pirates throughout the year. The presence of Foreign gun-boats and armed launches in and around some of their haunts seems to have little deterred these pests, whose ravages in the eastern section of the district have already very materially

interfered with, and may put a stop entirely to, junk traffic there, thus possibly diverting the course of trade to some of the more distant markets to the eastward via Swatow. But few of the smaller junks will enter Chinese waters via our Samun Station now, and the trade, for fear of attack by these robbers inhabiting the coast in Bias Bay and beyond, is consequently largely confined to the bigger and more heavily armed vessels. An instance showing that these desperados are in no way awed by the advent of steam has, at the moment of writing, come to hand. A launch of considerable size that regularly passes our eastern Station en route to Shanmi called in at a town in Bias Bay and was boarded by the usual number of passengers, amongst whom were several carrying large baskets. These baskets, it afterwards transpired, contained arms, and their owners after holding up the crew, robbed the passengers of valuables and money to a considerable amount and then (having removed part of the vessel's machinery) escaped in a small boat that put off from the shore, evidently by pre-arrangement, and have so far eluded the grasp of the authorities.

Early in the year, on the passing of legislative measures sanctioning the introduction of Chinese coolie labour into South Africa the emigration agents for the Rand mines established a segregation depot for intending emigrants at Laichikok, in the New Territory. Matchsheds were erected and every comfort provided for the housing of the coolies whilst awaiting shipment, and a large fleet of steamships was chartered for the conveyance of these labourers to South Africa. At first, the wages and prospects offered being liberal, no great difficulty was experienced in getting a considerable number of Natives, willing to proceed abroad to come forward; later on, however, candidates for employment were less numerous, and during the past few months it has been found necessary to despatch the ships from Hongkong, with only a few hundred coolies on board, viz. Chetoo and Chinwang'ao, there to ship further drafts of emigrants from the northern provinces.

W. R. M'D. PARR,
Acting Commissioner of Customs.
Kowloon, 2nd February, 1905.

THE HONGKONG TRUTHTELLER.

The following amusing skit is from the *Japan Chronicle's* "Stray Notes":—

Once upon a time there was a man in Hongkong who spoke the truth. I regret to add that he is dead, like his brother in Shanghai, and from information received I am able to state that his place is yet unfilled. I gather this information from a report in the local Press of the Peak District of a lawsuit between two Indians. Counsel for somebody called the attention of the Bench to the presence of witnesses in Court. They were ordered out, and about two hundred—no, I won't exaggerate—half the Indian population of Hongkong walked out. Then the case opened, and one by one the multitudinous witnesses tumbled into the witness-box, contradicted one another, and tumbled out again.

This game went merrily on for a time, until at last Judge got weary. Addressing the Bar, he said "There used to be a man here some time ago, who was a sort of high priest for these people, and he used occasionally to tell the truth. Where is he now? The Court interpreter, in broken accents and with tears in his eyes, faltered "He is dead." An awful hush spread over the Court at this dire news. Continuing, the interpreter said: "His successor has sold his business and gone away." Thus, dear reader, we see that truth is at a discount in Hongkong. There was once a man who told the truth, but it evidently was too great a strain; he died. His successor could not carry on the business for want of custom, and picked up. Perhaps he has booked his passage to Kobe. Truth is appreciated in Kobe, and no one has yet been able to point the finger of scorn in the sands of time and write "His jacet F. A. G."

CANTON.

[FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT]

15th December.

LINCROW AFFAIR: A CONTEMPTIBLE WITNESS.

Wen Tsung-yao has caused a man named Lam-Hi to be arrested and brought down to Canton for trial. It appears that prisoner is a Chinese lawyer who meddles in all sorts of shady businesses and is a notorious bad character. When the Commission arrived he sent a petition to the American Consul-General in which he stated that the massacre originated through the Boycott and denounced several good people against whom he had a grudge, as having participated in the affair. He advised the Consul-General not to sign the report of the investigation. Wen Taotai finding that the accusations were false, telegraphed the matter to Viceroy Shum who issued orders for Lam-Hi's arrest on the 7th inst.

CAN-ON-MACAO RAILWAY.

When the concession for this line was granted, it was agreed between the Portuguese and Chinese Governments that each side would contribute \$1,000,000 towards the capital required for the construction of the line. The Chinese director, Lam Tak-Yuen, has already in hand \$2,000,000 but the Portuguese have so far raised nothing. Lam petitioned Shen Shum Wy some months ago requesting him to urge the Portuguese Minister in Peking to move in the matter. Nothing having been done since, Sheng has now memorialized the Wai-Wu-Pu advising the concession to be cancelled. The Portuguese Director is said to have left for Portugal to try and raise the capital.

OUR FUNNY NEIGHBOURS.

On the 12th inst. while the young cadets from the torpedo-boats were going through a course of drill exercises on the parade ground a collision occurred between them and a Manchu soldier who stood on the parade ground and refused to move on. In the scuffle that ensued the Manchu was hit on the nose which started to bleed. The warrior cried "save life" and in a few seconds all the Manchus and Bannermen in the neighbourhood came to his assistance and drove the cadets and their instructors away from the ground after a free fight. The matter has been settled by compensating the "wounded" and a guard has now been placed at the gates to prevent any spectators from trespassing on the drill grounds.

16th December.

CHAU TUNG SANG'S AFFAIRS.

Chau Kai Tsang, who was recently deputed by the Sin-Hu-Kut, to report on the value of the different properties seized, has now sent in the valuation list. Chau Tung-Sang's private home has been valued at 100,000 taels, and Chau-Tit-Son's new and old residences respectively at 25,000 and 20,000 taels. The report includes the valuation of over a hundred houses which were owned by Chau Tung Sang, Tit Sui or Fu-Ka-Tai. The deputy is now preparing a report for the properties seized in the Pun-Yu district.

THE BOYCOTT: EXTRAORDINARY LETTER.

The Boycott Union here has informed the public that the nine representatives who were sent to Hongkong to aid the Hongkong Committee to draft a suitable reply to the American Merchants, had exceeded their powers and that the twelve clauses of their reply were not in accord with the resolutions passed at a previous meeting here. The Boycott Union here has received telegrams and letters from the unions in the different ports informing them that they did not approve of the reply and that they took no notice of what had been done without their approval. An extraordinary meeting has been called for the 17th inst. to discuss the situation.

The following letter was received by the Union a few days ago:—

"To the gentlemen members of the principal Boycott union, for their information, I (humble slave) though without influence or power, have subscribed towards the funds of the Boycott a sum of over \$5,000 collected by myself in aid of the union. I have acquired nothing nor deserve any merit. What I have done was for the good

of the people. The difficult task was at the point of being accomplished when suddenly our aims were defeated. Your respectable union sent representatives to Hongkong to consult with the Hongkong Committee and submit a reply to the proposals of the American merchants. I observe that this has been published in all the newspapers, the names of all the representatives being given. Twelve conditions have been submitted which bring ruin and defeat to ourselves. The reading of them causes one's hair to stand erect on our heads, and our eyes come out of their sockets. I now ask you all what were the original intentions of the Boycott Committee. Your reply would be that it was to prevent the Americans from illtreating and excluding Chinese labourers from their country. In nearly all of the conditions you leave out the labour question; this is not in accord with the intentions of the Boycott Union. Shame! Shame! What you have done is to shut out all Chinese labourers as if you had nothing to do with that question. You even seem to have helped the Americans to exclude and provide illtreatment for the labourers. You have collected tens of thousands of dollars subscribed by the Chinese people who resented their fellow countrymen being illtreated by Americans, and the Union was got up to support their case. You have abandoned the battle-field and have turned your spears against your countrymen; you have acted like traitors. This is very improper conduct and I have no sympathy for you. Who is the President? where is the Committee and what are you doing? Every arrow is now pointed towards you. If you value your lives take the hint. (Signed)—One of the numerous Chinese subjects residing in Hongkong."

Numerous letters similar to the above have been sent here from various ports.

The Boycott committee here received the following telegram from San Francisco. "The representatives sent to Hongkong to join the local committee in drafting the twelve conditions are not good nor perfect. We know you people did not go to Hongkong and that you had no hand in the drawing up of the reply. We hope you will strictly maintain the Boycott. We will hold a meeting regarding the establishment of a large arts and manufacture shop as soon as we are in possession of the conditions and regulations."

18th December.

NEW POSTS.

Following Taotai Kung's recommendations the following two Government Bureaux have now been established: (I.) Head-office for granting Licenses for prepared opium. (II.) Department of Agriculture and Cattle Breeding.

DISUNION AMONG THE BOYCOTTERS.

The Wuchow boycott union has sent telegrams to the Canton Union and to Liang-Sing, Chinese Minister in Washington, protesting on behalf of the people of Wuchow against the twelve conditions submitted to the American merchants in Hongkong.

An extraordinary meeting of the Canton Boycott union was held yesterday in the Kwong-chai Hospital in the presence of hundreds of people including representatives from the different colleges, the press, and the 72 merchant guilds in Canton. The president, Cheng To-chai, Taotai, stated that the nine representatives sent to Hongkong had exceeded their powers as they were not authorized to wire abroad that they were negotiating on behalf of all the representatives of the unions in China. He said that the object of the meeting to-day was to find some means to undo the harm done by the Hongkong meeting. Cha Ku-yuen one of the nine who went to Hongkong, then spoke. He admitted that they had made a mistake by wiring abroad to the effect that they were representing all the unions. As to the twelve conditions, he said that they had been drafted by a lawyer who sent them direct to the Americans. They were not binding and final and could be altered. After some discussion, it was decided to wire to the American Minister to consider these twelve conditions and the telegram sent to him on the subject as null and void as the union did not agree to them, and would not endorse them. The exclusion act must be repealed before a truce would be called.

Dec. 19th.

THE CH NESE WAY.

A curious incident occurred here last week, in which a wealthy Hongkong Chinaman was the victim. Mr. Chau-Tin-Sin, of Hongkong, built an ancestral temple in his native village near Canton. The building was completed last week, and the inauguration took place on Tuesday last. Mr. Chau invited his many friends from Hongkong, Canton, and Macao to attend. It must also be premised that sometime ago, when Admiral Li-Tsun visited Hongkong, a certain Chinaman surnamed Fung, borrowed a sum of \$20,000 from the admiral and gave a promissory note payable three months later. Mr. Chau guaranteed the note. The note was not paid, and the admiral wished to institute an action in the Supreme Court of Hongkong. He was told that "Hongkong laws are queer," and that unless due notice was given to the guarantor within a specified time, the latter's responsibility ceased in the matter. The broker, a Hongkong curio-dealer, who was courting the admiral's favour, told him that Chan-Tiu-Sin was about to proceed to his native village to inaugurate his new ancestral temple. A deputy was sent to Chau's village on the date of the ceremony, accompanied by a number of braves, and informed Chau that he was wanted by the Viceroy who wished to consult him concerning some important matters. Chau was led to a steam launch and when on board found that he had been inveigled into a trap. A dispatch was handed to him in which the admiral demanded immediate satisfaction. The curio dealer was also on board and he induced Chau to sign a fresh promissory note for the \$20,000. Chau, fearing arrestment and "squeeze," signed the note. He had also to consider all his friends who had taken the trouble to travel to his native village. The incident shows what arbitrary measures a Chinese official may take to serve his personal interests. The admiral is a great favourite of the Viceroy, and if any trouble arises out of the matter, he will no doubt be fully protected.

INTERESTING SEQUEL TO THE LINCHOW AFFAIR.

Tsang-Sew-Wing and others have petitioned Viceroy Shum praying that His Excellency will be good enough to communicate with the American Consul-General and to request him to instruct the American Missionaries of a Nam-Hoi village to remove the chapel which they have recently erected there. The Viceroy replied to the following effect. "I find that by treaty missionaries have the right to erect churches in the interior of China. Ignorant people in the interior often create trouble on account of these churches. The officials and gentry have often been and are constantly requested to explain to the people the rights conferred by treaty upon these foreigners, so as to avoid friction between them and the people. You state that hitherto there was no church in your district and that you are afraid that this will bring trouble to the village. You further state that the missionaries of that church, relying upon the support of their Government, are bullying the people. If this is true, it is improper for them to act in this manner. But if the people of your district were of a quiet disposition, the missionaries would not treat them in any unreasonable manner. You further state that the missionaries beat and whip the people, thus disgracing them. If it is really true, what are the names of the missionaries? Are they foreigners or natives? You fail to mention these important points, and it is difficult for me to believe you. At any rate all creeds instruct the people in the ways of virtue, and the people should not create trouble under the pretext that they are missionaries of one creed or the other. I have instructed the Provincial Treasurer and the Judge to give orders to the Nam-Hoi to investigate your allegations. He is also ordered to inform the people to abstain from creating ill-feeling between the missionaries and the people.

CANTON WATER-WORKS

Yesterday a grand banquet was held by the Water-works company at their head-office in Nam-Kwan, in the commodious house recently confiscated from Poon-Mun-Hing. There was a very large attendance. Taotai

Chu-Wing-Tso presided. After the banquet, the chief director explained the rules and regulations of the company. He pointed out the necessity of providing good pure water and stated that the doctors had reported favourably regarding the quality of the water at Shek-Moon; and that the plans and specifications, which are now being prepared by German and English architects, would be ready about the second moon of next year. The capital will be Tls. 1,200,000 divided into 1,000 shares of Tls. 10 each. Half of the amount will be taken up by Government and the other half by merchants. The company will be managed by the officials and gentry jointly. All present approved of the scheme.

MACAO.

[FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.]

20th December.

SANTA CASA DA MISERICORDIA.

It is rumoured that the Government is going to appoint a committee to take charge of the affairs of this institution. True or not, it is an unnecessary proceeding.

DEATH OF AN EX GOVERNOR OF MACAO.

News was received here last week of the death of the Conde de Paços dos Arcos. The late count came to Macao as Governor soon after the terrible cyclone in September 1874, and did much to alleviate the sufferings of the victims of that memorable storm, which nearly destroyed the whole city of Macao. He worked hard also to repair the damage, and was responsible for many subsequent improvements in Macao. Paços dos Arcos was Portuguese Minister in various courts in Europe and was at one time in Rio de Janeiro.

CHRISTMAS ENTERTAINMENT.

On Sunday next (Christmas Eve) there will be a party at the Club de Macao for the children of the members. There will be refreshments and dancing followed by the discharging of the Christmas Tree. This entertainment ought to be an annual fixture.

PAKHOL.

[FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.]

December 15th.

A CUSTOMS VACANCY.

Mr. J. C. Johnston, Commissioner of Customs, having left here in the latter part of November, his place is still vacant and nobody knows who is going to fill it nor when his successor will arrive. Mr. Johnston has obtained four months' leave and gone to England with Mrs. Johnston whose health needs a change.

DR. HORDER'S RETURN.

After an absence of about three months in Hongkong, where he went to recruit his health, Doctor Horder returned the other day almost recovered. He was accompanied by Doctor Bradley who, I understand, will take charge of the English Hospital.

THE NEW CHURCH.

Owing to the absence of Doctor Horder from the port, and some other unavoidable circumstances, the laying of the Foundation Stone of the new Church adjoining the English Hospital which was to have taken place on the 22nd ultimo was postponed to the 13th instant. The weather was then, unfortunately, not propitious for such an open air gathering. A strong cold wind was blowing from the North-East, accompanied occasionally by drizzling rain. The whole community, with very few exceptions, answered to the invitations; even the ladies turned out to be present at this function. The religious ceremony was done by the Rev. Mr. C. I. Blanchett. Mrs. E. B. Beauchamp acted as organist. Mrs. E. B. Beauchamp also laid the stone. The stone bears the following inscription:—"This stone was laid by Mrs. E. B. Beauchamp, 13th December, 1905." Tea was served at Dr. and Mrs. Horder's residence.

THE LINCHOW AFFAIR.

FURTHER INVESTIGATIONS NECESSARY.

Our Canton correspondent writes on Dec. 14th:—I am informed that the investigations which were conducted at Linchow will be continued here, owing to the departure from Linchow of the Sub-prefect, whose evidence has yet to be taken. There are also minor points which have to be cleared up, and another voyage to Linchow may be necessary. The second investigation will be made by the American Vice-Consul, who will witness the execution of the other criminals. The report of the Linchow commission fills 300 foolscap pages and will be typed before it is sent to the U. S. Government. I understand that the Hongkong Typewriting Bureau has been engaged to do the work, several copies being necessary.

The following are translations of the three proclamations issued by the Taotai Wen during his stay in Linchow.

(I.) I, Wen Tsung-Yao, have been specially deputed by H. E. Viceroy Shum to investigate the Linchow Massacre. There need be no apprehension; innocent people will not be involved in the affair. Those people who were arrested have been tried, and it has been proved that they participated in the massacre. They have been sentenced according to the degree of their guilt. None of them have been wrongfully punished. So serious a case seldom occurred. The following are the names of criminals who have run away and have not yet been arrested: Shew-Yent-Yeung, Lo Ah-Kee, Lo Sam-Hing, Tang-Yun-Koo and Tang-Hung-Koo. These men must be arrested and punished. The punishment meted out to the guilty who have already been sentenced does not absolve those who have absconded; all the gentry, merchants, officials and the people are therefore requested to report to the authorities should they come to know the whereabouts of these five men, so that they may be arrested and punished. They should not hide them. I have memorialized the Viceroy to pardon those ignorant men who were present at the massacre but who did not take any part in the riot.

They may return to their villages without fear. The soldiers are requested not to go round the different villages to frighten and blackmail the peaceful inhabitants under the pretence of searching for the escaped criminals. I command all to take notice of and obey this order.

(II.) The public is hereby informed that the Catholic and Protestant religions exhort people to be virtuous. Chinese subjects who adopt the Confucian, Buddhist, Taoist, Catholic, or Protestant creeds are, and remain, Chinese subjects. I, Wen-Tsung-Yao regard all the Chinese subjects who have become Catholics or Protestants as brothers. Those who have become either Catholics or Protestants must not bully nor look down on those of their countrymen who are not of the same faith. Chinese non-Christians should bear no ill-feeling against those who have adopted the Catholic or Protestant religion, but all Chinese subjects should observe the law and love each other; they should strive to be good men and loyal subjects of China. Those who break the laws of China, no matter whether they be Catholics or Protestants, or members of any other religion, will be tried and dealt with in the same manner. This unfortunate massacre happened very suddenly and I, Wen-Tsung-Yao have been deputed by H. E. the Viceroy to investigate. I have now completed my mission and am about to return to Canton. I command all to take notice of this proclamation and trust that no ill-feeling will henceforth exist between yourselves, and that you will live in peace with each other.

(III.) This proclamation is issued to inform the public that I, Wen-Tsung-Yao have been deputed to investigate the Linchow Massacre. Witnesses on both sides have appeared and their evidence has been taken; by this means we have arrived at the truth and learned how the sad affair occurred. The inquiry is now completed and I, Wen-Tsung-Yao, am now returning to Canton to report to H. E. the Viceroy that I have done my duty. All those people who have appeared as witnesses, no matter to what creed

they belong, should not be molested by the people for giving evidence. Nobody should try to take revenge on them for doing so. It is on account of this that I have issued this proclamation, and I command you all to take notice, etc.

INTERVIEW WITH A CHINESE COMMISSIONER.

Our Canton correspondent writes on Dec. 18:—I called on one of the Chinese officials who took part in the Linchow Enquiry. He told me that the enquiry was practically closed; and that a meeting is to be held by representatives of both governments to arrive at a final decision. He had no doubt that it has been clearly established that Dr. Machle did snatch three little cannons (not bombs) out of the six that were disposed in a row in front of the joss for worshipping purposes. The Doctor took them away to the dispensary, and refused to return them. The Commissioner has no doubt that Miss Chestnut did sweep all the josses away when the people want to ask for the return of the cannons. Evidence would have been produced to prove this, but the unfortunate lady being dead, the question, he says, was deferentially shelved. The American Consul-General applied to Viceroy Shum to obtain the evidence of Sub-prefect Ku, who was at Linchow, and was cashiered fifteen months ago on the charge of bringing a false accusation against one of his secretaries. Ku had accused his secretary of being a confirmed opium smoker. Governor Chang dismissed the case and cashiered Ku. Shortly afterwards Ku obtained an appointment in the Police Service of Canton through Viceroy Shum. While holding this post it was discovered that Ku had misappropriated 4,000 taels during his tenure of office as Sub-prefect of Linchow, and this charge having been proved against him, Ku was committed to gaol and is still in prison undergoing his sentence. The Viceroy naturally refused to permit such a scoundrel to give evidence in such an important affair, as his evidence would have no value. But, he said, we have discovered that Ku has written several letters to Dr. Machle and to two native missionaries, offering to give evidence in their favour by stating that the Linchow people were ill-disposed and had a grudge against Dr. Machle and the mission; on the condition that he should be reinstated as Sub-prefect of Linchow or be given some other equivalent official position.

Ku would show in return that a year ago the people had made up their minds to kill Dr. Machle and the missionaries. All these letters are now in the hands of the Chinese authorities. The Chinese Government has consequently determined not to grant a further investigation in the matter, and should the American Government insist, the whole of the report will be disclosed and published in all the newspapers, submitting the case to public opinion.

I am informed that Consul-General Cheshire will probably arrive here to settle the case with the Chinese authorities. He is expected to arrive to-morrow.

The official I interviewed also stated that no other criminals would be decapitated until those that have absconded are arrested and tried.

Following is a translation of one of the letters written by Ku Kwong Ip, ex-Sub-prefect of Linchow, to Chi Sing, a native missionary.

"To Chi-Sing, respectable gentleman, I have received your letter and know that you are in Canton and that you are about to return to Linchow. I regret to be unable to see you personally. How about the Linchow missionary case? Is the investigation completed? Have all the culprits been arrested? As Tsim-Lin-Shou has been cashiered, I do not know whether Chung-Chi will proceed to Linchow to take up his post. If he does, I do not think he is capable of doing anything. Mr. Cheun, who has been permanently appointed to the position of Sub-prefect of Linchow, is also an incapable man and has not got the ability to handle such a difficult matter. It is not an easy matter. I trust you will speak on my behalf to the American Consul-General and beg him to insist that the Chinese authorities should reinstate me as Sub-prefect of Linchow. I assure you that I can

give great assistance to the missionaries. I beg that the contents of this letter be kept perfectly secret and that nobody should come to know of it. With compliments. (Signed) Your younger brother, Ku Kwong Ip. The addressee is one of the native Christian missionaries of the American Presbyterian Society of Linchow.

THE OUTBREAK AT SHANGHAI MIXED COURT.

The *N.-C. Daily News* of Dec. 11 says:—It appears that there was no question on Friday about the destination of the girls whom the female prisoners were charged with kidnapping, Mr. Kuan, the magistrate, having agreed with the British assessor that they should be sent to the Door of Hope. The trouble arose over the two women charged with kidnapping, who were remanded in the usual way for the production of further evidence. The Consular Body's instructions to the foreign assessors are that female prisoners are to be sent to the Municipal gaol and not the Mixed Court cells, which are utterly unfit for the reception of any women. It is alleged that they have recently been made more decent, but that fact, if true, has not been notified in any way to the Consular Body. Mr. Twyman was acting entirely in accordance with his instructions, and Mr. Kuan's calculated opposition was a part of the design formed by the Chinese authorities to assert their authority in the Settlement, and to give way on this point would be to give away our rights in Settlement limits.

Our Cantonese fellow-residents have, we are informed, a separate ground of complaint; one of the prisoners in question is alleged to be the widow of an official in Szechuen, being herself a Cantonese, and the girls alleged to be kidnapped are stated to be slave girls such as every official has in his household, openly bought from their parents or guardians. It is stated that the prisoner has in her baggage proper papers justifying the presence of the children with her, and that the police did not give her time to produce these papers; but it was precisely for this purpose that she was remanded. Much was made at the meeting of the Cantonese of the insult to which a lady of rank was subjected; but it will be noted that the Chinese magistrate himself proposed to remand her to the Mixed Court cells. If there was no foundation for the charge of kidnapping, the lady's innocence would have been ascertained when the case was heard again on Saturday.

There is, however, every reason to believe that the dispute on Friday was a premeditated incident in the plan to attack foreign rights in the Settlement, and it is necessary that a firm stand should be made for these rights. It is to be regretted even more by the Chinese than by their foreign friends that the youth and hot-headedness of the Brothers King should have led them so forget themselves as they did on Friday. As for Mr. Kuan, he was doubtless acting under the orders of his superiors, and we are glad to know that a strong remonstrance has already been addressed to the Taotai.

AN INDIGNATION MEETING.

was called on Dec. 9 by the Committee of the Chinese Chamber of Commerce to protest against the conduct of the Police in striking runners of the Mixed Court during the session of the Court. Over a thousand are computed to have attended the meeting, during which it was decided, amongst other things, to demand the dismissal of the police inspectors, detectives and constables concerned and to ask that another person be appointed to act as British assessor. A great deal of indignation was manifested by everyone present among the large assembly, and there seems to be considerable unanimity as to what steps should be taken to preserve "the face" of the Chinese officials who are claimed to have been insulted by the police.

We give the following Chinese view of the disturbance at the Mixed Court at Shanghai, in view of subsequent developments. It went to the *N.-C. Daily News* as a letter from "One who was present." The original letter is in Chinese.

"It has always been a part of the Regulations of the International Mixed Court for female

criminals to be confined in the Mixed Court prison. Mr. Twyman, the British Vice-Consul, has, however, repeatedly wanted to send these females to the foreign gaol and on this account it has been a subject of repeated opposition on the part of Mr. Kuan, the magistrate of the Mixed Court. The latter has also petitioned the Shanghai Taotai to back up this opposition. This is on record.

"On the morning of the 8th instant, Mr. Kuan, magistrate, Mr. Ching, assistant magistrate, and Mr. Twyman, the British assessor, were trying cases brought by the police, among which was one in which a certain Mrs. Li Wang Shih was charged with kidnapping children. According to the evidence, this woman claimed to be the wife of an official and that she, accompanied by four others, had arrived in Shanghai from Szechuan; that she had with her five little girls whom she had purchased in Szechuan as personal attendants, but whom the police had wrongly charged her with having kidnapped. In view of the wrongful accusation Mrs. Li Wang Shih asked that her accusers be punished. It was found, in the course of the trial, that the defendant had arrived in Shanghai in the steamer *Poyang* en route to her home in Kungtung, and that the luggage brought by her amounted to over one hundred pieces. As for the children, the defendant declared that she had documents proving bona fide sales to her of them, etc. As this evidence appeared to refute the charge of the children having been kidnapped, the magistrate consulted with the assessor as to the advisability of remanding the case, sending the children to the "Door of Hope," and keeping the defendants under the custody of the Mixed Court ad interim. The British Assessor, however, determined to have the defendants confined under remand in the foreign (Municipal) Gaol. The magistrate replied that as he had not received any instructions from the Taotai to change the regulations, he could not consent to this. An argument ensued and, neither side being willing to give way, the magistrate accordingly ordered his runners to follow the regulation and hand the female defendants to the charge of the Court female gaoler. Upon this the Vice-consul ordered the police inspectors and all the constables present to use force in getting away the defendants. In the mêlée that ensued two runners of the Court, Chang Tai and Chou Yu-ching, and several onlookers were hurt, and when the magistrate called out to the police to stop striking, one of the inspectors went so far as even to threaten him with a club.

"About this time there was a large crowd of people outside the gates who, hearing of the disturbance, tried to rush in. Fearing a riot against the police on the part of the mob, the magistrate ordered the gates to be temporarily closed in order to prevent outsiders from coming in. Following on this the police forcibly took away the defendants, male and female. Nothing can render a worse insult to the dignity of an independent country than such treatment of its officials.

"Finally the two runners who were hurt by the Police have been examined by a special officer sent by the Shanghai Taotai and also by Dr. Ransom, the latter granting a certificate as to the condition and nature of injuries received by the runners in question."

THE PEKING-HANKOW RAILWAY.

A traveller who has just arrived in Shanghai from Peking via Hankow, furnishes the *N.-C. Daily News* with the following details about the working of the Peking-Hankow railway.

At present the bridge over the Yellow River is not open for traffic although it is completed. Passengers have still to cross the river by boat. There is one train each way per day, and the journey to Hankow is made in four stages. A train leaves Peking at 7 a.m. and runs to Shuntsefu, which is reached at 5.25 p.m. The night is spent in a Chinese inn. The following morning Shuntsefu is left at 6.30, Sinyanghsien being reached at 4 p.m. Passengers cannot proceed further that day, but again have to spend the night in a Chinese inn. Leaving Sinyanghsien at 5 a.m. next morning in a construction train to which is attached one old third-class carriage with broken windows and without light or heat, it takes three hours to cover the 35 or 40

kilometres to the bank of the Yellow River. Here there is no landing or platform, but passengers get off on the embankment and have their luggage conveyed by barrow to the river's bank. The crossing is made in an open boat and takes one and a-half or two hours under favourable conditions—any number of hours if conditions are unfavourable. From the south bank of the river to the nearest station there is a walk of about three miles. A train leaves this station—Yaugtsehsien—at noon, so there is little time to spare, as it is scarcely possible to reach the station before 11.30 a.m. The train from this point to Chênchou is also a construction train with very poor second-class accommodation. Chênchou is reached at 0.45 and a good train leaves that place at 1.30 p.m., reaching Chumatién at 7.45 p.m. Here there are semi-foreign inns. On the fourth day Chumatién is left at 7.05 a.m., and the journey is completed at Hankow at 6.15 p.m. Trains do not run at all at night. There are no buffet cars or refreshment rooms. Chinese food can be procured at all the stations. Bedding and foreign food must be taken. The second-class carriages are not cushioned, and the first-class carriages are merely cushioned with American leather. Both are fairly well warmed. A knowledge of French or Chinese is almost essential as the conductors speak little or no English. The Yellow River bridge is not likely to be opened for traffic until the middle of January.

CHINA TRADERS INSURANCE CO.

The 39th ordinary meeting of the shareholders of the China Traders Insurance Company, Ltd., was held at the Company's Office, Queen's Buildings, on the 16th December. Mr. A. Haupt, chairman of directors, presided and there were also present Messrs. E. Goetz, A. R. Linton, C. R. Lenzman (directors), W. Parlane, Ho Fook, G. Orange, G. D. Champaux, J. R. Michael, F. P. Hett, O. A. De Cruz, with the secretary, Mr. James Whittall.

The Secretary having read the notice calling the meeting,

The CHAIRMAN said:—Gentlemen—Before submitting my remarks on the business specially before the meeting, I desire to refer to the loss, by death, since we last met, of a very old and valued servant of this company—our late secretary, Mr. W. H. Ray—whose decease occurred on the 2nd August last. Mr. Ray lived but only a short span after his enforced retirement, and I am sure that you will desire to join with your directors in again formally expressing our deep sense of the loss of one who served us so well and so faithfully for so many years. The report and statement of accounts which we to-day present for your adoption—and which, with your permission, I will take as read—do not, I am sorry to say, realise our hopes of a year ago, but our chairman, on a recent occasion of our meeting together, foreshadowed this, and you will, therefore, have been somewhat prepared for this expression of disappointment. As then intimated, however, the results of the past year's working are primarily due to the quite exceptional experiences caused by the Russo-Japanese war, now happily at an end, and through which we, in common with most other marine insurance companies, have temporarily suffered. It is true that the abnormal increases in both our premium income and loss settlements are due to the acceptance of war risks, and it might be inferred, therefore, that that particular class of business had not dealt kindly with us. In the sense that it has not been very satisfactory, that is so, but I am glad to be able to say that if we succeed in recovering the substantial refunds in respect of payments made, which we hope to recover on such risks as the *Knight Commander, Hipsing, St. Kilda*, and various others, our ventures in this particular direction will not, so far as the year's operations under review are concerned, result in any material loss, and it is even quite possible that our war risk business, covering the whole period of the war, may yet result in a profit. It is more to our general and ordinary business that we must look for the falling off, for whilst on the one hand the disorganisation of trade owing to the war is accountable for a substantial decrease in our normal takings, I am sorry to say a

corresponding decrease in our normal claim settlement is not so apparent. In all the circumstances I think we may congratulate ourselves that we are able to maintain our dividend and bonus on last year's basis—as your Directors think we quite safely can do—to know that although the amount left to be carried to suspense appears small, yet with that addition we still have a suspense fund more than ample to meet our known outstanding liabilities; and that if we are only moderately fortunate in our ultimate recoveries in respect of war risks, the former position of our liquid reserves is likely to be completely reinstated. The accounts themselves are otherwise, I think, self-explanatory. Messrs. Palmer & Turner have as usual reported on the properties under mortgage to the company, and their valuations show ample margins of security. I take this opportunity of referring to a matter in which you will naturally be interested. In response to our circular of the 19th October last, the votes of our shareholders on the recent offer made to them by the Union Insurance Society of Canton, Ltd., have, as returned, proved sufficiently satisfactory to the Society for them to claim fulfilment of the undertaking entered into by our assenting shareholders, and, subject only to their shareholders now giving their sanction to the necessary increase of capital, the arrangement will be duly completed. In the mean time it has been agreed between us on approximate estimates made, that the ratio for the exchange of shares on the intrinsic values of the shares of the respective companies to be taken as at the 31st December next, shall be fixed at the "convenient round figure" of ten of the Company's shares for one of the Society's shares. No provision has been made for the Society to receive back any balance in cash in the event of the approximate estimates proving to have been too much in favour of the China Traders' shareholders, and it was necessary, therefore, that there should be left a margin of safety in favour of the Society. In addition, however, to the exchange of scrip, certificates will be issued by the Society to the Company's assenting shareholders, entitling them or their assignees to any cash balance that may eventually be ascertained to be due to them, together with simple interest at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum. These certificates, which it is intended to make transferable by endorsement in order to make them readily saleable, are to be redeemable as soon as practicable after the 31st December, 1908, by which time it is conceded that the accounts of the respective companies as to the 31st December next will have run off, or if not, any outstanding liabilities can without difficulty be estimated. For the purpose of ascertaining the final intrinsic value, it has also been agreed that the total net assets of the respective companies as at the 31st December next shall be valued at the rates of exchange of that date, and that all subsequent payments made, and recoveries received, in respect of 1905 and previous years, shall be reckoned at current rates of exchange. The balance as thus estimated is in each case to be considered the final intrinsic value. We understand that it is the intention of the Society to repeat its former offer, not only to those of our shareholders who have so far not replied, but also to those who have declined. A further agreement has been previously entered into and will, in due course, be ratified, in respect of a working arrangement between the two companies, which we hope and believe will prove to be beneficial to the shareholders, and also to the constituents, of both companies. I think I have now dealt with all points calling for comment, but before formally moving the adoption of the report and accounts, I shall be glad to give, so far as I can, any further information that may be desired.

The CHAIRMAN—There being no questions asked, I beg to propose that the report and statement of accounts as presented be adopted.

Mr. ORANGE seconded, and the motion was carried *nem con.*

On the proposition of Mr. PARLANE, seconded by Mr. Ho Fook, the appointment of Messrs. A. R. Linton and C. R. Lenzman as directors was confirmed.

Messrs. Lenzman and Haupt, the retiring directors, were re-elected on the motion of Mr. CHAMPEAUX, seconded by Mr. MICHAEL.

Mr. HETT proposed, and Mr. PARLANE seconded, the re-election of Messrs. T. Arnold and H. U. Jeffries as auditors. This was carried unanimously.

The CHAIRMAN—Gentlemen, that is all the business. I thank you for your attendance. Dividend warrants will be ready on Monday morning on application.

UNION INSURANCE SOCIETY OF CANTON, LTD.

An extraordinary general meeting of the Union Insurance Society of Canton, Ltd., was held at the office on December 20th, Mr. H. W. Slade presided, and there were also present: Messrs. A. G. Wood, N. A. Siebs, A. Forbes, G. H. Medhurst (directors), A. G. Morris, W. J. Saunders (secretary), F. P. Hett, C. E. H. Beavis, A. B. Rouse, E. J. Grist, J. R. Michael, C. M. G. Burnie, H. J. M. Carvalho, J. A. Carvalho, A. V. Apear, H. M. N. M. S. Hancock, W. Melchers, F. W. Warre, the Hon. Mr. Gershom Stewart, and Captain F. D. Goddard. The Secretary read the notice calling the meeting and the motion for authorising an increase of capital.

The CHAIRMAN said—Gentlemen, the issue of this new capital is required to enable us to carry out our contract with those shareholders of the China Traders' Insurance Company who have accepted or shall accept the offer made to them by the Society on the 25th August last. We offered to issue new shares and allot them to the shareholders of that Company in exchange for their present shares on the basis of intrinsic values, taking a convenient round figure based upon approximate estimates for this exchange of shares, and paying the balance of value in cash when the intrinsic values could be properly ascertained. All other legal requirements have been complied with and a sufficient majority of the China Traders' shareholders have already accepted our offer. It only remains for us to pass this resolution. As you are well aware it is difficult to forecast the actual intrinsic value of the shares of a Marine Insurance Company with any great accuracy. No one can tell whether the vessels afloat are going to arrive or not, or what claims are coming in in respect of known and unknown casualties, and therefore in fixing a convenient round figure on approximate estimates we have had to allow a margin for error. The nearest convenient figure which can be taken for our purpose is one to ten, that is one Union share for ten China Traders' shares, with the balance in cash when finally ascertained. This will explain why we are taking power to issue 2,400 shares. There are 24,000 China Traders' shares in all, and though all of the China Traders' shareholders have not so far accepted our offer we wish to give all of them the opportunity of doing so, even those who have at first declined it. A circular will shortly be issued to the China Traders' shareholders renewing our offer for reply up to the 31st March next. The resolution goes on to mention "a contract or memorandum in writing made or to be made pursuant to the said offer and to be filed with the Registrar of Companies." In order to comply with the Ordinances, when shares are not issued for cash, a contract showing on what terms they are issued has to be filed with the Registrar of Companies. In our case the contract will consist of the forms of assent received from the individual shareholders of the China Traders' Insurance Company, endorsed with particulars of the allotment made in each case. The resolution finally gives the Board power to dispose, in such manner as it shall think most beneficial to the Society, of any balance of shares which may be left over after dealing with all of the assenting shareholders of the China Traders' Insurance Company. This balance will we think be a small number of shares. In any case it will be some time before we know how many shares are over, and there is no intention of disposing of them just at present. With these remarks I beg to propose the resolution as read by the Secretary.

Mr. MORRIS seconded and the resolution was carried unanimously.

The CHAIRMAN—That is all the business. There will be a confirmatory meeting on the 4th January at 11.30.

THE SITUATION AT SHANGHAI.

Although its mad expression was sharply stopped, it is too much to expect that the anti-foreign feeling at Shanghai has subsided. Our telegraphic news (Dec. 20) shows that the dispersal and disappearance of the mob on Monday night was not sufficient to warrant the belief that the trouble was over. It may be only beginning. The mobs re-appeared next day; and much depends now on the behaviour of the foreign troops. It is known that numerous modern firearms, particularly Mauser pistols, are distributed amongst the turbulent people surrounding Shanghai; and the wonder is that they have not already been produced. It seems that, with later information, we have nothing to retract from what we have already said as to the causes and origin of the riot.

THE POINT AT ISSUE.

There was apparently one misunderstanding of the details of the Mixed Court fracas, as appears in the following extract from the *N.-C. Daily News*:—"The *South China Daily Journal* complains of the 'one-sided and irrelevant statements' in our article on the outbreak at the Mixed Court, and says that if any serious consequences result from the outrage, we shall be largely to blame. It accuses us of trying to hoodwink our readers by representing that there was a disagreement between the Chinese magistrate and the British assessor as to the destination of the children. We acknowledged, however, on Monday, that we were misinformed on this point, and took the earliest opportunity of correcting our mistake. A great deal is made of the arrest of a Chinese lady travelling with a number of legally bought slave girls, on the charge of kidnapping. Our native contemporary ignores the fact that the police were informed by a telegram from Chinkiang that they should look out for a kidnapper with 14 victims on board a river steamer; that kidnapping is recognised by Chinese as a serious crime; and that they would have rightly complained if the police took no notice of such a warning. We cannot suppose that the Chinese magistrate would have remanded the Cantonese lady to the Mixed Court cells, as he did, if there were sufficient evidence that she was the lawful owner of the girls. But all this is beside the real question, which is: *Are the Taotai's orders to over-ride the orders of the Consular Body in the International Settlement?* The Consular Body have instructed the foreign assessors that female prisoners on remand are to be sent to the Municipal goal, where there is a proper women's ward under feminine supervision. The Taotai has instructed the magistrate that they are to be put in the Mixed Court cells. The British assessor and the police were doing their duty in carrying out the instructions of the Consular Body, and the magistrates were doing what they thought was their duty. The 'outrage,' as our contemporary calls it, arose through the magistrate's runners attacking the police. Meanwhile, a correspondent who has had a long experience in China, and knows the subject thoroughly, writes: 'It may help in the understanding of this Mixed Court affair if you realise the fact that the Mixed Court, as well as every native Court in China, is 'run' by the 'runners.' For some years the Mixed Court 'runners' have propped over the losses to them by the Municipal care of prisoners, and in cases involving dealings in females they get their best harvest.'

HONGKONG AND SHANGHAI BANK THREATENED.

On the 13th inst., five days before the outbreak, our contemporary had the following note:—"Although native opinion is still highly excited over the affair in the Mixed Court, and the most extravagant and anti-foreign sentiments are being expressed, the tension between the Chinese and Consular authorities is somewhat relaxed. The Consular body met yesterday to discuss the dispatches from the Taotai, and the proceedings have not, of course, been divulged. But it appears to be generally understood that the immediate crisis has been avoided and that negotiations may be set on foot which will result in a complete understanding in regard to Mixed Court procedure.

We are authorised to deny most emphatically the ridiculous statement set about yesterday that dispatches from Sir Pelham Warren to the Taotai had been returned unopened, and that the Taotai's dispatches had also been returned to him. Last night it became known that an organised run on the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank is being planned for to-day, when as many notes as possible are to be presented for redemption in silver dollars. It is even asserted that the co-operation of one of the smaller foreign banks has been secured in this manoeuvre, which cannot, however, do more than possibly cause a temporary inconvenience to trade. The Bank will easily be able to make arrangements to meet any such run, and in so doing might, in return, seriously inconvenience the native banks."

NATIVE NEWSPAPER INSTIGATION.

Naturally, the native newspapers "took a hand," no doubt with official countenance. As early as the 12th inst., a correspondent wrote:—"Sir,—Those of your readers who glance at the columns of the Chinese morning papers begin to think that *before long we shall have the events of 1900 repeated*. Then, China defied the world in arms, with disastrous consequences to herself, and now the editorials of most of the Shanghai native papers remind one of nothing so much as of an Irishman at Donnybrook fair, uproariously demanding that someone should tread on the tail of his coat. A little while ago we had the American boycott and the vials of editorial wrath were poured out on America. Then came the Japanese Commissioners and the Manchurian negotiation. The Japanese did not comport themselves as pliantly as Young China thought proper, and for a time they were said to be worse than the Russians. The Vladivostok riots furnish a text to one of your contemporaries for an impassioned appeal to its readers to *grow strong against the foreigner*. No-one would for a moment refer to such an outrage as that at Vladivostok with anything but horror, but, when the Chinese papers complain that Russia promises an indemnity for Chinese wrongs, only as a matter of grace on the part of the Czar's government, but Foreign Powers, with a strong hand, compel China to pay as a matter of right, when the Chinese destroy foreign life and property, they forget that the reason why Foreign Powers demand an indemnity from China for all riots and massacres is because these riots are either

INSTIGATED BY CHINESE OFFICIALS or are allowed to take place with their cognisance and consent. The Russian soldiers at Vladivostok were as savage as the Chinese Boxers, but while the soldiers rioted in the northern port no Russian officer dared appear in uniform. The riot was directed against the Russian authorities; the Chinese suffered—and their sufferings have the deepest commiseration of everyone—in the course of a riot directed by the soldiers against their officers, by the people against their rulers. Now, what mandarin suffered the least inconvenience during all the Boxer outbreak? They were either the chief instigators of the massacres or, at any rate, connived at them. It was because *China was officially guilty* that China was called on to pay for her crimes. It is because the Russian government is not guilty of instigating or conniving at the massacre of Chinese at Vladivostok that they refuse to pay an indemnity as a matter of right, but offer one as a matter of grace.

Now comes the matter of the Mixed Court, and all the native newspapers threaten vengeance on all things British unless this is settled to their satisfaction. Don't you think, sir, it would be well if the intelligent men who conduct the native papers would pause for a moment and think what effect this continual sparring, first at one nation, and then at another, is bound to have. China hopes one day to abolish the extra-territoriality clauses in her treaties. When that day comes, foreigners will probably gain as many privileges as they will lose, but, will that day be hastened by the present impotent, but spiteful clamour of your contemporaries? I think all intelligent Chinese will admit that the nation has gained more during the last twenty years from the good will of Britain, America, and Japan than from that of any other combination of Powers, yet, it is precisely against those three nations that the Chinese native papers have been girding most viciously for the last month or so."

CHINESE DEMANDS

At the interview granted to the merchants and gentry by Taotai Yuan at the Bureau of Foreign Affairs, the former, says the *Nanfangpao*, presented the following proposals, which, they urged, should be considered in the settlement of the Mixed Court fracas.

- 1.—Since the Chinese residents in the International Settlement are holders of a large part of the real estate, they should be represented in the Municipal Council by a Chinese member or members.
- 2.—Since Mr. Twyman has shown by his action a lack of knowledge of the treaties, he should be replaced by another assessor.
- 3.—The police inspectors participating in the riot should be removed.
- 4.—The police constables, who are also guilty of violence, must be punished.
- 5.—In the future, all cases must be decided according to the regulations, i.e., the magistrates are to enjoy full powers in purely Chinese cases. The female wards in the municipal goal are to be abolished.

THE MUNICIPAL COUNCIL'S CASE.

The following letter, with enclosures, was ordered for publication as bearing on the recent dispute at the Court:—

Shanghai, 22nd June, 1905.

Dear Sir,—I have the honour to forward to you:—

- 1.—Translation of a dispatch from the Taotai, dated 10th of June, 1905.
- 2.—Translation of a reply dated 21st of June, 1905.

As it appears impossible to come to terms with the local Chinese authorities. I have been instructed by my colleagues to proceed to Nanking and to discuss the question with his Excellency the Viceroy.—I have the honour to be, dear sir, your obedient servant,

DR. KNAPPE:

Consul-General for Germany and Senior Consul.

F. ANDERSON Esq.,
Chairman, Municipal Council.

Translation of dispatch from Taotai to Senior Consul, dated the 10th June, 1905.

The Taotai writes in reply to the letter of the 6th inst. that according to all the treaties a Chinese offender is under the jurisdiction of China. If a Chinese commits an offence in the Settlement, he is to be tried and detained in custody by the Magistrate of the Mixed Court according to Article I. of the rules for the Mixed Court at Shanghai.

The Mixed Court has existed in Shanghai for several tens of years; but neither is there any mention in the treaties, nor is there any precedent to show that a female convict has ever been sent to the Municipal Goal.

I have been, the Taotai continues, in Shanghai for four years as Taotai and have always endeavoured in my intercourse with the foreign Consuls to act in an amicable manner. I cannot understand how you, as Senior Consul, influenced by the Municipal Council, can address to me a request which is not in conformity with the treaties.

In consequence of the successive enlargements of the Settlement the number of the which have to be tried in the Mixed Court has increased. And accordingly the goals for male and female prisoners, which in former times were regarded as large enough, have proved to be too small. I have, therefore, given instructions to the Mixed Court Magistrate to repair and cleanse the Mixed Court's goals and to choose a place on the Mixed Court's premises for erecting new buildings.

Mr. Twyman, the British Assessor, has inspected the places and declared them as fit for use. Thereupon I have set apart a sum of money for the construction of the new buildings and have thus done my duty.

Female convicts have to be tried as soon as they have been taken, and immediately after the trial they are to be dealt with according to the sentence.

If there have occurred delays in producing female convicts because I do not agree with their being sent to the Municipal goal, and if consequently cases accumulate, the fault lies not with me but with the foreign assessor. According to Chinese law offenders who have committed a crime are sent to prison; those who

have only committed a trivial offence are kept in custody.

Never has there been equal treatment in all the cases without regard for the severity of the case.

Your request that I should agree with the female convicts for the present being sent to the Municipal gaol is not in accordance with the treaties, and I am therefore not in a position to comply with it.

Translation of the Senior Consul's reply dated 21st June, 1905.

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter dated 10th of this month which I have submitted to the Consular Body.

I have received instructions to reply to you as follows:

You forget to mention that male prisoners in all Chinese cases of the Mixed Court have been taken to the Municipal gaol since its creation. In this way thousands and thousands of Chinese have undergone their punishment up to the present date, and the average number of convicts detained there is 45 per day.

Female prisoners have not been taken to the Municipal prison so far because no accommodation for women was in existence up to a short time ago. But the Municipality have granted a large amount of money and erected a special gaol for women.

There is no difference in principle between male and female prisoners and it is not comprehensible, why, if you agree that male prisoners to the number of four hundred and fifty are kept regularly in the Municipal gaol, you should object to a few female prisoners being sent to the same establishment.

It is evident by your conduct in this matter as well as in many others, that your principle is obstruction to any progress in the interest of humanity.

There appears to be no chance of coming to an understanding with you.

I have, therefore, received instructions from my colleagues to proceed to Nanking and to negotiate with H. E. the Viceroy in this and some other matters.—I have the honour, etc.

DR. KNAPPE.

AUDI ALTERAM PARTEM.

A "foreign resident" wrote on Dec. 11th as follows:—

"In the interest of fair play would it not be well to consider more fully the Chinese side of the Mixed Court question? It has been stated at the recent meeting of the Chinese Chamber of Commerce and referred to in the leading article of the *Nanfongpao* for December 11th, in English.

There is no doubt that all Chinese opinion, official and mercantile, considers that the treaty rights of Chinese in Shanghai have not been maintained or advanced by this assault by the servants of the Council on the Mixed Court, but on the contrary have been disgracefully and brutally trampled down. The Council's advocates claim that they are protecting the rights of Chinese residents. But this claim is quite ridiculous in the presence of the fact that all the great guilds, as well as the officials, are preparing to take such united action as will bring this community, which lives by commerce, to realise the danger of overriding the rights of the Chinese, no matter under what pretext. Even if force is used to coerce the Chinese authorities locally, one cannot tell whether this matter will end here or in the interior. The Chinese are coming to the point of standing up for their rights as they understand them, even if it gives us foreigners a shock.

The speech made by Taotai Yuan on Saturday, when the heads of the Chinese organisations of capital called upon him, is indicative of the new era. He said:

"I must apologise to you all for not having managed foreign affairs in the past with sufficient firmness, thus resulting in the disgraceful trampling upon our rights, as was witnessed at the Mixed Court two days ago. Be assured that in this instance I will exert my utmost to erase the shame inflicted on the Chinese Government and the people by the action of the British assessors and the municipal police. I am willing to give up my post in the fight for justice and fair play.

"The bravery of magistrate Kuan in maintaining against all odds the sovereign rights of China is praiseworthy, and it is my intention to see that reparation be done to him for the

insults and shameful treatment he underwent at the hands of the police.

"I thank you for calling upon me, and I cannot praise you enough for your exhibition of public spirit and of loyalty to country."

The Taotai followed his speech by proroguing, for the present, the Mixed Court, and I, for one, do not blame him for doing so."

A CHINESE OPINION.

A Chinese correspondent said the Chinese people are not willing to see their women, however guilty they may be, kept in foreigners' custody. It has been stated in the foreign Press that by this special police regulation the Chinese would be benefited. I am sorry to say that we Chinese do not concur with your views in the matter, and in this special case I may also add that the whole Chinese people will be a unit in sympathising with the energetic action of our good Mixed Court magistrates.

It is true that in consideration of the great amount of taxes paid by us Chinese in the community, the foreign Municipality gives us a certain protection but we do not want that, under the pretence of protection the police can enter our houses, wrongly arrest our women, our sisters and daughters, and detain them in their custody; it is a question of principle for us, and we, as far as in us lies, will allow it never."

"YOUNG CHINA" BLAMED: A CURIOUS SUGGESTION.

An American at Soochow says:—

"It seems to be the idea of a great many Chinese reformers and patriots that the only way in which they will be able to overthrow the present dynasty would be to have another anti-foreign disturbance such as they had in 1900. It is their belief that in the confusion that would ensue they would be able to dethrone the Emperor and set up a Republic. They believe that Foreign Governments would not allow Kuang Hsu to remain as Emperor for allowing another Boxer uprising in the Empire. It is also a current belief that England would help the Manchus, but that the United States with the help of Germany and France would stand by the Chinese. They believe firmly that foreign nations would never agree to destroy the integrity of China, as that would cause international wars. In creating another great anti-foreign uprising it would be clear to the Foreign Powers that the present authorities are incapable of managing the affairs of their country and it would be dangerous to allow them to retain their power. I believe that all anti-foreign feeling has the hearty sympathy of those who are in official positions. They feel their power is weakening, and that it would be a very unwise step to interfere with their meetings against foreigners. The boycott is not altogether an anti-American movement, but it is thoroughly anti-foreign."

MINISTER UPSETS CONSULAR PLANS.

"Old Shanghai" remarked on Dec. 15:—"In the present case it is well-known that the policy and action of the Consular Body have been identical with that of the council, directed solely to the removal of certain flagrant abuses of the Mixed Court, whose evil name has long been a reproach to the Settlement. The published dispatches of the Consular Body have expressed that Body's unanimous intention to insist on certain necessary reforms, one of which was the more humane treatment of female prisoners. It is also well known that they have now been frustrated in that laudable intention by the lamentably weak action of the British Minister at Peking."

ENGINEERS' BALL.

The pleasures of dancing were thoroughly enjoyed by the large company which assembled in the City Hall on Dec. 15 on the occasion of the annual ball promoted by the members of the Institution of Engineers and Shipbuilders of Hongkong. Though there were between 600 and 700 present, the floors of both St. George's and St. Andrew's Halls were adequate to permit unimpeded dancing. This, added to agreeable company, exquisite music, every attention to creature comforts, went a long way to make the event the success that it was, while the secretary, Mr. David J. Lennox, on whom the burden of the work fell, and the committee, are to be congratulated on the completeness of their arrangements, which left nothing to be desired. The stairway leading

to the ballrooms was tastefully decorated with flowers and greenery, bunting covered the walls, while in a conspicuous place was the crest of the Institution. The guests began to arrive shortly before 9 o'clock when dancing began to the music played by the band of the 2nd Battalion West Kent Regiment and was continued with zest till well on in the morning. The gentlemen responsible for the arrangements were:—Sub-committee—Messrs. H. T. Richardson (convener), J. Lambert, C. F. Focken and F. O. Murphy. Invitation Committee—Messrs. C. F. Focken, (convener), F. Miller and W. Ramsay. Decoration Committee—Messrs. H. T. Richardson (convener), W. C. Jack, W. Wilson, V. Watson, E. C. Wilks, T. W. Robertson and W. A. Crake. Dancing Committee—Messrs. J. D. Morrison (convener) and E. C. Murphy. Supper Committee—Messrs. J. D. Logan (convener), E. C. Wilks, J. H. McLaren, J. D. Morrison, W. C. Jack, J. F. Miller, T. Banks, T. W. Robertson, W. A. Crake, and V. Watson. Bar Committee—Messrs. J. W. Anderson (convener), W. A. Crake, J. D. Logan, W. J. Hill and T. Banks. Stewards—Capt. A. Milroy, Messrs. F. McRobie, W. G. Winterburn, J. McCubbin, T. Skinner, and A. Ritchie.

WEI-HAI-WEI SCHOOL.

PUBLIC EXAMINATION.

The results of the examination conducted by the College of Preceptors at the school in June last have recently been received, and will be generally admitted to be highly satisfactory.

One of the more promising candidates had unfortunately to leave the school previous to the examination, and his place was taken at short notice by another. The latter failed to pass the Second Class—or Junior—examination in one subject, but receives the Third Class certificate.

Of the remaining eleven candidates three took the First Class—or Senior—papers, four the Second Class—or Junior—and four entered for the Third Class examination.

One of the Senior candidates failed to satisfy the examiners, but obtained a Junior certificate. Of those entered for the Junior examination one failed by a narrow margin of five marks and is awarded the Third Class certificate. The Third Class candidates all passed. One boy, C. C. Walker, obtained "honours;" and "distinction," i.e., not less than 75 per cent of the maximum in given subjects, was earned by W. H. Edgar, W. W. Conner, and C. C. Walker in Drawing, Scripture, History and Geography respectively.

It is worthy of note that in the supplementary lists, published in the "Educational Times," of successful candidates examined in foreign centres, W. H. Edgar heads the list of all boys examined outside Great Britain, and W. A. Lorenzen is placed fourth.

The subjects in which boys satisfied the examiners are Scripture, History, English, Geography, English History, Arithmetic, Algebra, Geometry, Latin, French, German, Book-keeping, Drawing and Shorthand. In Latin the set books were Caesar's Commentaries, Books IV. and V., and in English, Shakespeare's "Julius Caesar."

When it is remembered that all the boys in the "Upper School," during the regular curriculum, were, without exception, entered for the examinations; that their ages approximate to the ages of candidates for the different classes at home; and that the dull and backward boy is not excluded by a system of entrance examinations and "superannuation," it will readily be agreed by all interested in the individual candidates and in the school that they have cause for congratulation.

The results are also an effluential reply to those educational Jeremiahs who so often lamentingly ask, "Can any good thing come out of the East?"

LIST OF CANDIDATES.

First Class, or "Senior":—W. H. Edgar and M. A. Lorenzen, Newchwang.

Second Class, or "Junior":—J. M. Bandinel and C. W. Lorenzen, Newchwang; J. P. Moller and W. B. Roope, Shanghai.

Third Class:—W. W. Conner, Taku; G. A. Buyers and C. C. Walker, Shanghai; T. C. Conner, Taku; E. Grimbly, Hongkong; D. Toumin, Shanghai.

COMMERCIAL.

SILK.

Messrs. Arnhold, Karberg & Co.'s Fortnightly Produce Circular, dated Shanghai, 11th Dec., 1905, States:—Since our last report the demand for Produce of almost all kinds has been brisk, and owing to the fall in exchange it has been possible to put through a very considerable business. Gallnuts.—A fair business has been done in the interval at slightly lower rates. First cost prices, however, show signs of hardening again. Cowhides.—Prices asked by native dealers remain very high, in spite of which, however, a good business has been done. Tobacco.—No demand. Feathers.—Market very dull. Cotton.—First cost prices remain unchanged, but owing to the fall in exchange, and the continued rise in American cotton, a large business has been possible with Europe. Tallow.—A few transactions have taken place. The market is rather weaker. Strawbraid.—Coarse and extra fine Split Shingkee white, Yangahen and Fine Square remain in demand, but stocks are very small and prices firm. A fair business has been done in Loyeh white, Shans mottled and Purl at slightly lower prices. Goatskin Rugs.—Remain in good demand and prices continue to advance. Wool.—There is a good demand for all qualities.

Messrs. A. R. Burkill & Sons' Silk Circular, dated Shanghai, December 6th, 1905, States:—The Home markets are firmer, the quotations for Gold Kiling being Fcs. 34.25 and 12/- in Lyons and London respectively. Raw Silk.—Some 600 bales of Tsaltles have been fixed at quotations, but at the close holders are demanding higher prices. Exchange has declined one penny and a quarter since the date of our last issue. Yellow Silk.—Has been in fair request. Steam Filatures.—Transactions in fine sized low grade Filatures are recorded and they are in request. Hand Filatures.—Some enquiry but no business has resulted. Waste Silk.—There is absolutely nothing doing.

SUGAR.

HONGKONG, 22nd December.—A further decline in prices is reported, market being weak.

Shekloong, No. 1, White.....	\$8.80 to \$8.85 per cwt.
Do. " 2, White.....	7.30 to 7.35 "
Do. " 1, Brown.....	6.50 to 6.55 "
Do. " 2, Brown.....	5.90 to 5.95 "
Swatow, No. 1, White.....	8.40 to 8.45 "
Do. " 2, White.....	7.20 to 7.25 "
Do. " 1, Brown.....	6.25 to 6.30 "
Do. " 2, Brown.....	5.70 to 5.75 "
Foochow Sugar Candy.....	11.00 to 11.05 "
Shekloong	10.05 to 10.10 "

RICE.

HONGKONG, 22nd December.—A few demands having come forward the prices are declining.

Saigon, Ordinary	\$2.80 to \$2.85
" Round, good quality.....	3.60 to 3.65
" Long.....	3.70 to 3.75
Siam, Field mill cleaned, No. 2.....	2.90 to 2.95
" Garden. " No. 1.....	3.75 to 3.80
" White.....	4.00 to 4.05
" Fine Cargo	4.20 to 4.25

OPIUM.

HONGKONG, 22nd December.

Quotations are:—Allow'ce net to 1 catty.

Malwa New	\$1020 to — per picul.
Malwa Old	\$1050 to — do.
Malwa Older	\$1100 to — do.
Malwa V. Old.....	\$1200 to — do.
Persian fine quality	\$1150 to — do.
Persian extra fine.....	\$1200 to — do.
Patna New	\$970 to — per chest.
Patna Old	\$950 to — do.
Benares New	\$940 to — do.
Benares Old	\$915 to — do.

PIECE GOODS.

Messrs. Noel, Murray & Co.'s Report on the Shanghai Piece Goods Trade, dated Shanghai, 14th December, 1905, states:—The slightly better feeling which it was thought was beginning to manifest itself in our market last week has all ended in smoke; a reaction in Silver has strengthened exchange again, and once more intending purchasers are waiting for a decline in prices—or pretend to be doing so. News of the higher sterling rates has evidently penetrated into the consuming districts, and what few orders are coming forward are based accordingly, and weak holders amongst the dealers here are forced to submit, hence business has again been confined to the ample supplies in second hands. It was self-evident, months and months ago, that the time must come eventually when buying here from the importer of goods from stock must practically cease, so it is not very surprising, in a market like the present, that importers are receiving no enquiry for what they have to offer. But in addition to unsold cargo they are burdened with the worry and trouble of having to arrange for the carrying of vast quantities of goods indented for by the Natives and they are lucky if they can get interest and margins paid up while the fresh supplies constantly arriving, add to their embarrassment, and the knowledge of more to come is putting them in anything but an enviable position. Their one hope now is the maintenance of the high price of cotton, but even that may prove a broken reed. The satisfactory way in which it continued to rise until last Friday's closing quotation was telegraphed gave some encouragement, but the sudden drop of three eight's of a penny last Tuesday is not very reassuring; and it is confirmed by telegrams from New York, though later wires advise a recovery, to some extent. From the very meagre news from the North we gather that Newchwang is now closed to shipping and supplies can only be sent there by the much more expensive Ching-wan-tao route. The River Peiho is full of drift ice, so it is unlikely any more steamers will attempt to enter, though one is advertised to leave here to-morrow morning, with the alternative of landing her cargo at Ching-wan-tao if it is not feasible. Tientsin seems to be getting rapidly into the position of only drawing on this market for the few things she cannot get direct. The dealers look upon this tendency to curtail business here very gloomily. The River trade continues in the same unsatisfactory condition, and the recent slight improvement in clearances appears to have been merely a flash in the pan. Locally flood damaged goods are still supplying the bulk of the demand. Going farther afield the market in Corea is disorganised and there is great anxiety here to see what effect the reforms the Japanese are trying to introduce will have on Foreign trade. Everything is in a state of the utmost uncertainty. The fate of the fairly large supplies sent to Vladivostok, as shown in our last issue, is still in some doubt, and further shipments are being withheld. The market in Manchester has not responded to the decline in cotton, which, after advancing to 6.42d. last week, has receded to 6.09d. for Mid-American, and Egyptian has declined to 8½d. The New York market for goods is stronger than ever although Cotton for July option fell from 12.57 to 11.75 cents gold, but it immediately recovered to 12.13 cents for reasons unknown. After a temporary decline exchange has made a rapid recovery in sympathy with Silver, and this, coupled with an uneasy feeling, tempered with various wild rumours owing to a little misunderstanding between the Foreign and Native authorities, has almost put all thought of buying out of the minds of the dealers. The auction results, however, show that the market has not been very much affected. The rise in sterling rates seems to have put a stop to the yarn business, transactions during the interval having dropped to a minimum. The buying, such as it is, has been entirely for the River markets and at very weak prices. Japanese and Local spinnings are both steady. The better staples of cotton are rather firmer owing to some buying for Japan.

MISCELLANEOUS IMPORTS.

HONGKONG, 22nd December.—The prices ruling are as follows:—

COTTON YARN—	per bale
Bombay—Nos. 10 to 20, ...	\$90.00 to \$128.00
English—Nos. 18 to 24, ...	140.00 to 160.00
" 22 to 24, ...	160.00 to 165.00
" 28 to 32, ...	167.50 to 175.00
" 38 to 42, ...	180.00 to 190.00

Reported sales 18,000 bales.

COTTON PIECE GOODS—

	per piece
Grey Shirtings—6 lbs.	\$2.20 to \$2.25
7 lbs.	2.30 to 2.40
8.4 lbs.	3.00 to 4.00
9 to 10 lbs.	4.10 to 5.30
White Shirtings—54 to 56 rd.	2.80 to 3.00
58 to 60 "	3.10 to 3.60
64 to 66 "	3.80 to 5.40
Fine.....	6.10 to 8.00
Book-folds	5.30 to 8.10
Victoria Lawns—12 yards ...	0.80 to 1.00
T. Cloths—6 lbs. (32 in.), Ord'y.	2.20 to 2.30
7 lbs. (32 ")	2.70 to 3.00
6 lbs. (32 "), Mexs.	2.25 to 2.70
7 lbs. (32 ")	2.90 to 3.20
8 to 8.4 oz., (36 in.)	3.25 to 3.80
Drills, English—40 yds., 13½ " to 14 lbs.)	5.10 to 8.00

FANCY COTTONS—

Turkey Red Shirtings—14 to 8 lbs.)	1.75 to 3.70
	per yard
Brocades—Dyed	0.13 to 0.15
Chintzes—Assorted	0.09 to 0.30
Velvets—Black, 22 in.	0.23 to 0.45
Velveteens—18 in.	0.21 to 0.25
	per dozen
Handkerchiefs—Imitation Silk	0.52 to 1.00

WOOLLENS—

	per yard
Spanish Stripes—Sundry chops	0.63 to 2.00
German.....	—
Habit, Med., and Broad Cloths	1.20 to 3.00
	per piece
Long Ells—Scarlet, 7-9 lbs.	7.75 to 8.90
Assorted	7.90 to 9.05
Camlets—Assorted.....	20.00 to 31.00
Lastings—30 yds. 31 inches)	18.00 to 21.00
Assorted	—
Orleans—Plain, 31 in.	—
	per lb.
Blankets—5 to 12 lbs.	0.60 to 1.50

METALS—

	per picul.
Iron—Nail Rod	4.20 to —
Square, Flat Round Bar (Eng.)	4.10 to —
Swedish Bar	4.20 to —
Small Round Rod	4.50 to —
Hoop ½ to 1½ in	6.30 to —
Wire, 16/25 oz.	9.10 to —
Wire Rope, Old	3.00 to —
Lead, L. B. & Co. and Hole Chop	10.30 to —
Australian	10.80 to —
Yellow Metal—Muntz 14/20 oz.	42.00 to —
Vivian's 14/20 oz.	42.00 to —
Elliot's 14/20 oz.	42.00 to —
Composition Nails.....	61.00 to —
Japan Copper, Slabs.....	38.50 to —
Tin.....	87.00 to —
	per box
Tin-Plates	6.40 to —
	per cwt. case
Steel ½ to ½	5.80 to —
	per picul
Quicksilver	120.00 to —
	per box
Window Glass	5.00 to —

MISCELLANEOUS EXPORTS.

HANKOW, Dec. 13th, 1905:—The prices quoted are for the net shipping weight excluding cost of packing for export:—

	Per picul.
Cowhides, Best Selected.....	Tls. 36.90
Do. Seconds	32.25
Buffalo hides, Best Selected	17.50
Goatskins, untanned, chiefly white color	59.00
Buffalo Horns, average 3-lbs. each	8.00
White China Grass, Wuchang and/or Poochi.....	12.00
White China Grass, Sinshan and/or Chayu	11.00
Green China Grass, Szechuen	12.00
Jute	4.20
White Vegetable Tallow, Kinchow	9.00
White Vegetable Tallow, Pingchow and/or Macheng	8.70
White Vegetable Tallow, Mongyu	8.00
Green Vegetable Tallow, Kiyu	8.50
Animal Tallow	10.00
Gallnuts, usual shape	18.50
Do. Plum do.	18.00
Tobacco, Tingchow	9.00
Do. Woungkong	10.00

Black Bristles	" (nom.)
Feathers, Grey and/or White Duck ...	" "
" " " Wild Duck	" "
Turneric	3.50
Sesamum Seed	3.70
Sesamum Seed Oil	7.50
Vegetable Tallow Seed Oil	" (nom.)
Wood Oil	9.20
Tea Oil	10.00

Per P. & O. steamer *Palermo*, sailed on 15th December. For London:—205 boxes tea (from Amoy), 102 packages tea (from Foochow), 4 boxes lychees, 200 bales hemp, 55 packages m'disc (opt.), 120 rolls mats. For Marseilles:—125 bales waste silk (opt.), 50 cases camphor, 25 bales human hair. For London:—7 cases curios, &c., 3 packages sundries, 150 bales waste silk, 127 bales canes, 31 boxes crude camphor, 264 rolls mats and matting. For Oporto:—33 cases cassia. For Barcelona:—100 cases cassia. For Manchester:—125 bales waste silk.

Per P. & O. steamer Simla, sailed on 16th Dec.,
For London :—29 cases cigars, 4 cases feathers, 4
packages curios, 1 package blackwoodware, 3 pack-
ages sundries, 105 bales raw silk, 24 packages tea,
2 cases silks, 70 bales waste silk. For Gibraltar :
—2 packages silks. For St. Châmond :—40 bales
raw silk. For Lyons :—309 bales raw silk. For
Marseilles :—6 cases feathers (opt.), 327 bales raw
silk.

SHARE REPORTS

HONGKONG, 22nd December, 1905.—A small business has been transacted during the week, chiefly in connection with the approaching settlement, but nothing of any importance has occurred, and no new feature in the *make* of the market has been introduced; rates, however, have in many cases declined further and the market is anything but active.

BANKS.—Hongkong and Shanghai have been placed at \$865 after being on offer for some days at \$870, the market closing quiet but steady at the former rate. Nationals unchanged.

MARINE INSURANCES.—Unions have been negotiated in the early part of the week at \$710, and close with sellers at that rate. China Traders, after the payment of the dividend of \$4½ on the 18th inst., have been placed at \$84½ and \$84, closing with sellers at the latter rate. Cantons are on offer at \$325 without inducing sales. North Chinas and Yangtszes unchanged and without any local business.

FIRE INSURANCES.—Hongkongs continue neglected but Chinas have firmed up a bit, and after sales at \$87 close in demand at that rate.

SHIPPING.—Small sales of Douglasses at \$35, Indos at \$91 and China and Manilas at \$21½ are all we have to report under this heading.

REFINERIES.—China Sugars, influenced by the approaching settlement, have further declined to \$200, market closing with sellers. Some sales are reported below this rate. Luzon have been placed at \$25 and \$25½ in small lots, closing with further buyers at the former rate.

MINING.—Raubs have improved to \$3.75 with buyers but no business to report.

DOCKS, WHARVES AND GODOWNS—Hong-kong and Whampoa Docks ruled firm during the early part of the week and sales were effected at \$164, later, however, they again weakened to \$163 with sales, market closing with buyers at the latter rate. Kow'oon Wharves, after sales at \$108½, close quiet with a few shares on offer at that rate. Farnhams, after falling in Shanghai to Tls. 127, have rallied to Tls. 130 with buyers.

LANDS, HOTELS AND BUILDINGS.—Hong-kong Lands have been placed in small odd lots at \$ 24. Hotels at \$149, and Humphreys at \$12½ the last closing with buyers.

COTTON.—Quotations are taken from Shanghai except Hongkong Cottons which have been placed locally at \$13½.

MISCELLANEOUS.—Small sales of Powells at \$10½, Fenwicks at \$25 (old), China Providents at \$9½, and Cements at \$28½ are all we have to report under this heading.

Closing quotations are as follows :—

COMPANY.	PAID UP.	QUOTATIONS.
Alhambra	\$200	\$100, buyers
Banks—		
Hongkong & S'hai..	\$125	\$865, sales & sel.
National B. of China	£5	London, £92.10
		\$38, buyers
Bell's Asbestos E. A...	12s. Gd.	\$7
China-Borneo Co.....	\$12	\$10, sellers
China Light & P. Co.	\$10	\$9, ssellers
China Provident	\$10	\$91, sellers
Cotton Mills—		
Ewo.....	Tls. 50	Tls. 46, ex div.
Hongkong	\$10	\$131, sales
International	Tls. 75	Tls. 40
Laou Kung Mow	Tls. 100	Tls. 54
Soychee	Tls. 500	Tls. 250
Dairy Farm	\$6	\$16, sellers
Docks & Wharves—		
Farnham, B. & Co...	Tls. 100	Tls. 130, buyers
H. & K. Wharf & G.	\$50	\$108
H. & W. Dock	\$50	\$163, buyers
New Amoy Dock...	\$61	\$17
S'hai & H. Wharf...	Tls. 100	Tls. 210, buyers
Fenwick & Co., Geo...	\$25	\$25, sales & buy.
		\$241
G. Island Cement. ...	\$10	\$281, sellers
Hongkong & C. Gas...	£10	\$175, buyers
Hongkong Electric...	\$10	\$15, buyers
Do. New	\$10	\$141, buyers
H. H. L. Tramways...	\$100	\$215
Hongkong Hotel Co...	\$50	\$149, sellers
Hongkong Ice Co.....	\$25	\$235
Hongkong Rope Co...	\$50	\$152
H'kong S. Waterboat	\$10	\$13, sellers
Insurances —		
Canton	\$50	\$325, sellers
China Fire	\$20	\$87, sales & buy.
China Traders	\$25	\$34, sellers ex. c
Hongkong Fire.....	\$50	\$330, sellers
North China.....	£5	Tls. 90
Union	\$100	\$710
Yangtze	\$60	\$170
Land and Buildings —		
H'kong Land Invest.	\$100	\$125, sellers
Humphreys' Estate	\$10	\$12, sales & buy.
Kowloon Land & B.	\$30	\$40, buyers
Shanghai Land.....	Tls. 50	Tls. 120
WestPoint Building	\$50	\$55, sellers
Mining—		
Charbonnages	Fcs. 250	\$490
Raub.	18/10	\$3.75, buyers
Philippine Co.	\$10	\$5, buyers
Refineries—		
China Sugar.....	\$100	\$200
Luzon Sugar.....	\$100	\$25, buyers
Steamship Companies		
China and Manila...	\$25	\$22, sellers
Douglas Steamship	\$50	\$35, aless & buy
H., Canton & M. ...	\$15	\$241
Indo-China S.N. Co.	£10	\$91
Shell Transport Co.	£1	24/-, sellers
Do. Preference...	£10	£4. 10s.
Star Ferry	\$10	\$32
Do. New.....	\$5	\$23, sellers
Shanghai & H. Dyeing	\$51	\$50
South China M. Post.	\$25	\$20, sellers
Steam Laund'g.	\$5	\$7, sellers
Do.	\$5	\$61, sellers
Stores & Dispensaries.		
Campbell, M. & Co.	\$10	\$36
Powell & Co., Wm.	\$10	\$101, sales
Watkins	\$10	\$6, sellers
Watson & Co., A. S.	\$10	\$121, buyers.
United Asbestos ...	\$4	\$9
Do. Founders	\$10	\$160

Messrs. J. P. Bisset & Co.'s Share Report for the week ending the 14th December, 1905, states:—We have very little to report since our last issue beyond a very considerable fall in S. C. Farnham, Poyd Shares, which have steadily declined every day. Business has not been very brisk and consists for the most part of the December account being adjusted. There is very little new business going on. The T. T. rate is 2/10½. Banks.—H. and S. Banks have further declined to \$870, at ex. 71. Marine and Fire Insurance.—No business reported. Shipping.—Indo-China's have weakened slightly since our last, from Tls. 66½ for December to Tls. 65½. Small business has been done at Tls. 66½ for January, Tls. 67½ March, and Tls. 69 for April. Tugs. Ordinary shares have been dealt in at Tls. 55 in small lots. Docks and Wharves.—The market in S. C. Farnhams has been steady and persistent. At the commencement of the week there were sales at Tls. 137 for December and Tls. 139 for March. Heavy selling has now reduced the rate to Tls. 130 December and Tls. 133 March, and we close with probable sellers at these figures. We have heard of no particular reason for this heavy decline beyond the difficulty of finance. Shanghai and Hongkew Wharves have become slightly weaker from Tls. 207½ for December. Shares can now be obtained at Tls. 205. For March Tls. 217½ and Tls. 215 have been done, and at the close sellers prevail at the latter figure. Hongkong and Whampoa Docks are quoted in Hongkong at \$163 buyers. Sugar.—A single transaction in Peraks has taken place at Tls. 64. Mining.—No business reported. Land.—Shanghai Lands have been dealt in at Tls. 120. There are buyers at this price. Industrial.—Ewos have changed hands at Tls. 55 cash and December, cum. div. Shanghai Gas. A small lot was dealt in at Tls. 128. Langkats. During the whole week there has hardly been any change at all in the rates. We opened with sales at Tls. 215 and 217½ for December and these are practically our closing rates. For March Tls. 230 and 227½ have been reported. Stores and Hotels.—Hall and Holtz Co. A small lot was dealt in at \$25½. Central Stores, new issue, changed hands at \$27½. Astor House shares were dealt in at \$27½. Miscellaneous.—Dallas Horse Repository were dealt in at Tls. 40. Horse Bazaars have sellers at Tls. 67½ but with no bids forthcoming. Loans and Debentures.—Municipal 6 per cent. Debentures changed hands at Tls. 97. Astor House 8 per cent. Debentures have buyers at Tls. 104.

EXCHANGE.

FRIDAY, 22nd December

ON LONDON.—	Telegraphic Transfer	2/0 ¹ / ₄
	Bank Bills, on demand	2/0 ¹ / ₄
	Bank Bills, at 30 days' sight	2/0 ¹ / ₄
ON LONDON.—	Bank Bills, at 4 months' sight	2/1 ¹ / ₄
	Credits, at 4 months' sight	2/1 ¹ / ₄
	Documentary Bills, 4 months' sight	2/1 ¹ / ₄
ON PARIS.—	Bank Bills, on demand	258 ¹ / ₂
	Credits 4 months' sight	263
ON GERMANY.—	On demand	210
ON NEW YORK.—	Bank Bills, on demand	50 ¹ / ₂
	Credits, 60 days' sight	51
ON BOMBAY.—	Telegraphic Transfer	153
	Bank, on demand	153 ¹ / ₂
ON CALCUTTA.—	Telegraphic Transfer	153
	Bank, on demand	153 ¹ / ₂
ON SHANGHAI.—	Bank, at sight	71 ¹ / ₂
	Private, 30 days' sight	72 ¹ / ₂
ON YOKOHAMA.—	On demand	99 ¹ / ₂
ON MANILA.—	On demand	101
ON SINGAPORE.—	On demand	7 ¹ / ₂ p.c. pm
ON BATAVIA.—	On demand	123 ¹ / ₂
ON HAIPHONG.—	On demand	1 ¹ / ₂ p.c. pm.
ON SAIGON.—	On demand	1 p.c. pm.
ON BANGKOK.—	On demand	60 ¹ / ₂
SEVEREIGNS, Bank's Buying Rate		\$9.67
GOLD LEAF, 100 fine, per tael		\$51.50
BAR SILVER, per oz.		\$04

VERNON & SMYTH, Brokers.

SHIPPING.

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES SINCE LAST MAIL.

December—

ARRIVALS.

14, Chowtai, German str., from Bangkok.
 14, Glenogle, British str., from Singapore.
 14, Waishing, British str., from Tientsin.
 15, Anping, Chinese str., from Shanghai.
 15, Decima, German str., from Foochow.
 15, Glenlee, British str., from Bombay.
 15, Glenogle, British str., from London.
 15, Hopsang, British str., from Hongy.
 15, Johanne, German str., from Haiphong.
 15, Kung Ping, Chinese str., from Amoy.
 15, Teau, British str., from Manila.
 15, Thode Fagetud, Norw. str., from Newcastle.
 15, Titania, German str., from Moji.
 16, Brand, Norwegian str., from Canton.
 16, Brigavia, German str., from Hamburg.
 16, Choyang, British str., from Canton.
 16, Pakhoi, British str., from Chinkiang.
 16, Pitsanulok, German str., from Bangkok.
 16, Prinz Waldemar, Ger. str., from Sydney.
 16, Sandown, British str., from Cardiff.
 17, Algoa, British str., from San Francisco.
 17, Anapa, British str., from Moji.
 17, Emma Luyken, Ger. str., from Canton.
 17, Haimun, British str., from Swatow.
 17, Helene Rickmers, Ger. str., from K'notzu.
 17, Hermann Menzell, Ger. str., from Amoy.
 17, Holstein, German str., from Canton.
 17, Ichang, British str., from Chinkiang.
 17, Lisa, Swedish str., from Chinkiang.
 17, Mad. Rickmers, Ger. str., from Bangkok.
 17, Malacca, British str., from London.
 17, Phuyen, French str., from Foochow.
 17, Progress, Norwegian str., from Shanghai.
 17, Thyra, Norwegian str., from Kuchinotzu.
 17, Yatshing, British str., from Wuhu.
 18, Chiyuen, Chinese str., from Shanghai.
 18, Furst Bismarck, German cr., from Faintau.
 18, Hongkong, French str., from Haiphong.
 18, Hue, French str., from Kwangchauwan.
 18, J. Diederichsen, Ger. str., from Hoibow.
 18, Kwongsang, British str., from Shanghai.
 18, Prinz Heinrich, Ger. str., from Yokohama.
 18, Kubi, British str., from Manila.
 18, Seald, British str., from Singapore.
 18, Stettin, British str., from Canton.
 18, Tjipanas, Dutch str., from Macassar.
 18, Triumph, German str., from Shanghai.
 18, Yuensang, British str., from Manila.
 19, Andromeda, British cr., from Mirs Bay.
 19, Apenrade, German str., from Tamsui.
 19, Catherine Apear, Brit. str., from Calcutta.
 19, Dr H. J. Kiaer, Norw. str., from Iloilo.
 19, Emps. of China, Brit. str., from Vancouver.
 19, Gneisenau, German str., from Hamburg.
 19, Haitan, British str., from Coast Ports.
 19, Hector, British str., from Shanghai.
 19, Kansu, British str., from Tientsin.
 19, Kwangse, British str., from Canton.
 19, Meefoo, Chinese str., from Canton.
 19, Wingsang, British str., from Chinkiang.
 19, Yochow, British str., from Shanghai.
 20, China, Austrian str., from Trieste.
 20, Daigi Maru, Japanese str., from Tamsui.
 20, Gerd, Norwegian str., from Chinkiang.
 20, Tungshing, British str., from Wuhu.
 20, Waishing, British str., from Canton.
 20, Yiksang, British str., from Wuhu.
 21, Anping, Chinese str., from Canton.
 21, Asama, British str., from Shanghai.
 21, Chingtu, British str., from Australia.
 21, Elita Nossack, Ger. str., from Chinkiang.
 21, Gera, German trspt., from Vladivostok.
 21, Haimun, British str., from Swatow.
 21, Kansu, British str., from Canton.
 21, Stuttgart, German trspt., from V'rostok.
 21, Wakamatsu Maru, Jap. str., from Moji.
 21, Yunnan, British str., from Wuhu.
 22, Amigo, German str., from Haiphong.
 22, Anghin, German str., from Bangkok.
 22, Bechnana, British str., from London.
 22, Haiching, British str., from Coast Ports.
 22, Hsin Chang, Chinese str., from Singapore.
 22, Indrani, British str., from Amoy.
 22, Mongolia, Amr. str., from San Francisco.

December— DEPARTURES.
 15, Derwent, British str., for Saigon.
 15, Haimun, British str., for Swatow.
 15, Hangsang, British str., for Canton.
 15, Lothian, British str., for Cebu.
 15, Paklat, German str., for Bangkok.
 15, Palermo, British str., for Bangkok.
 15, Siberia, American str., for San Francisco.
 15, Waihora, British str., for Amoy.

15, Zafiro, British str., for Manila.
 16, Delta, British str., for Shanghai.
 16, Glenogle, British str., for Amoy.
 16, Hanoi, French str., for Haiphong.
 16, Hopsang, British str., for Shanghai.
 16, Kampot, Fr. str., for Kwang Chow Wan.
 16, Kilberman, British str., for Calcutta.
 16, Kung Ping, Chinese str., for Swatow.
 16, Kwanglee, Chinese str., for Shanghai.
 16, Loongsang, British str., for Manila.
 16, Rajah, German str., for Bangkok.
 16, Shachsing, British str., for Shanghai.
 16, Simla, British str., for Europe.
 16, Suisang, British str., for Calcutta.
 16, Tjilatjap, Dutch str., for Batavia.
 16, Waishing, British str., for Canton.
 17, Anping, Chinese str., for Canton.
 17, Brand, Norwegian str., for Chinkiang.
 17, Choyang, British str., for Shanghai.
 17, Daijin Maru, Japanese str., for Tamsui.
 17, Decima, German str., for Foochow.
 17, Dundas, British str., for Singapore.
 17, Ismaila, British str., for Singapore.
 17, Johanne, German str., for Swatow.
 17, Pakhoi, British str., for Canton.
 17, Rajaburi, German str., for Bangkok.
 17, Samsen, German str., for Bangkok.
 17, Sandown, British str., for Moji.
 17, Sophie Rickmers, Ger. str., for Calcutta.
 17, Vorwärts, German str., for Saigon.
 18, Clara Jebson, German str., for Chinkiang.
 18, Stettin, British str., for Shanghai.
 19, Aragonia, German str., for Moji.
 19, Brigavia, German str., for Yokohama.
 19, Chiyuan, Chinese str., for Canton.
 19, Emma Luyken, German str., for Hongay.
 19, Haimun, British str., for Swatow.
 19, Holstein, German str., for Haiphong.
 19, Ichang, British str., for Canton.
 19, Kwongsang, British str., for Canton.
 19, Lisa, Swedish str., for Canton.
 19, Malacca, British str., for Shanghai.
 19, Minnesota, American str., for Seattle.
 19, Phuyen, French str., for Foochow.
 19, Prinz Waldemar, Ger. str., for Yokohama.
 19, Talisman, Norwegian str., for Bangkok.
 19, Teau, British str., for Manila.
 19, Yatshing, British str., for Canton.
 20, Bogatyr, Russian cruiser, for Singapore.
 20, Glenlee, British str., for Koba.
 20, Gneisenau, German str., for Shanghai.
 20, Gromoboi, Russian cruiser, for Singapore.
 20, Gregory Apear, British str., for Calcutta.
 20, Haitan, British str., for Coast Ports.
 20, Hangsang, British str., for Shanghai.
 20, Hongkong, French str., for Hoibow.
 20, Hue, French str., for Haiphong.
 20, Kansu, British str., for Canton.
 20, Kwangse, British str., for Shanghai.
 20, Meefoo, Chinese str., for Shanghai.
 20, Prinz Heinrich, German str., for Europe.
 20, Russia, Russian cruiser, for Singapore.
 20, Thyra, Norwegian str., for Kuchinotzu.
 20, Triumph, German str., for Shanghai.
 20, Yiksang, British str., for Canton.
 20, Yochow, British str., for Canton.
 21, Andromeda, British cruiser, for Shanghai.
 21, Chowtai, German str., for Bangkok.
 21, Gerd, Norwegian str., for Canton.
 21, Hector, British str., for London.
 21, Jacob Diederichsen, Ger. str., for Pakhoi.
 21, Loongmoon, German str., for Shanghai.
 21, Progress, Norwegian str., for Shanghai.
 21, Seald, British str., for Amoy.
 21, Wingsang, British str., for Canton.
 22, Carl Menzell, Ger. str., for Rangoon.
 22, Elita Nossack, German str., for Canton.
 22, Furst Bismarck, German cr., for Bangkok.
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